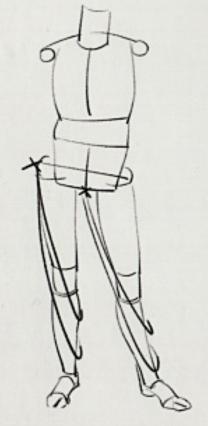


### MORPHO: Clothing folds and creases

anatomy for artists

Michel Lauricella

Clothing folds take various shapes, but they follow a relatively simple logic. In this book, artist and teacher Michel Lauricella connects the body's underlying anatomy and posture to clothing, establishing an "anatomy" of folds that will help you sharpen your drawing skills, create accurate and realistic clothing, and give your characters more dynamic energy. This book is a great resource for anyone sketching or drawing clothing. Geared toward artists of all levels—from beginners through professionals—this handy, pocket-sized book will help spark your imagination and creativity.



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# Clothing folds and creases

Michel Lauricella



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Morpho: Clothing Folds and Creases

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Printed in China

Publisher's note: This book features an "exposed" binding style. This is intentional, as it is designed to help the book lay flat as you draw.

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Soichi Sunami (1885–1971), Martha Graham in Lamentation, 1930 Gelatin silver print, 9½ x 7½ in



#### foreword

"Draping" refers to the arrangement of the fabrics and folds of clothing represented in painting or in sculpture. It is an artistic motif that has been practiced since antiquity, and was almost a genre in itself in the hands of Leonardo da Vinci. Artists try to re-create the fabric's material and volume, relying on the quality of the light reflections and the greater or lesser fluidity of the curves.

Silk, linen, nylon, leather, etc. each have their own particular properties. When they are elastic or flexible, the fabrics and other materials used in fashion are drawn using lines that are fluid or taut; when the materials are stiff, the lines "snap."

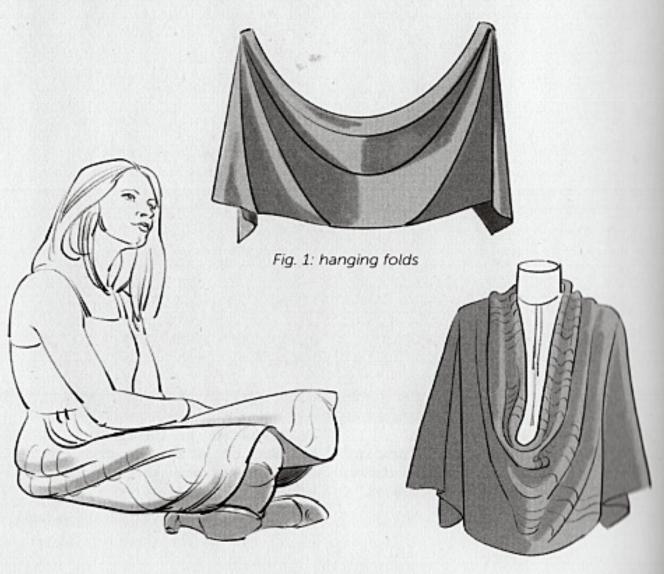
But I did not choose "draping" for the title of this book. In calling it "Clothing Folds and Creases," I

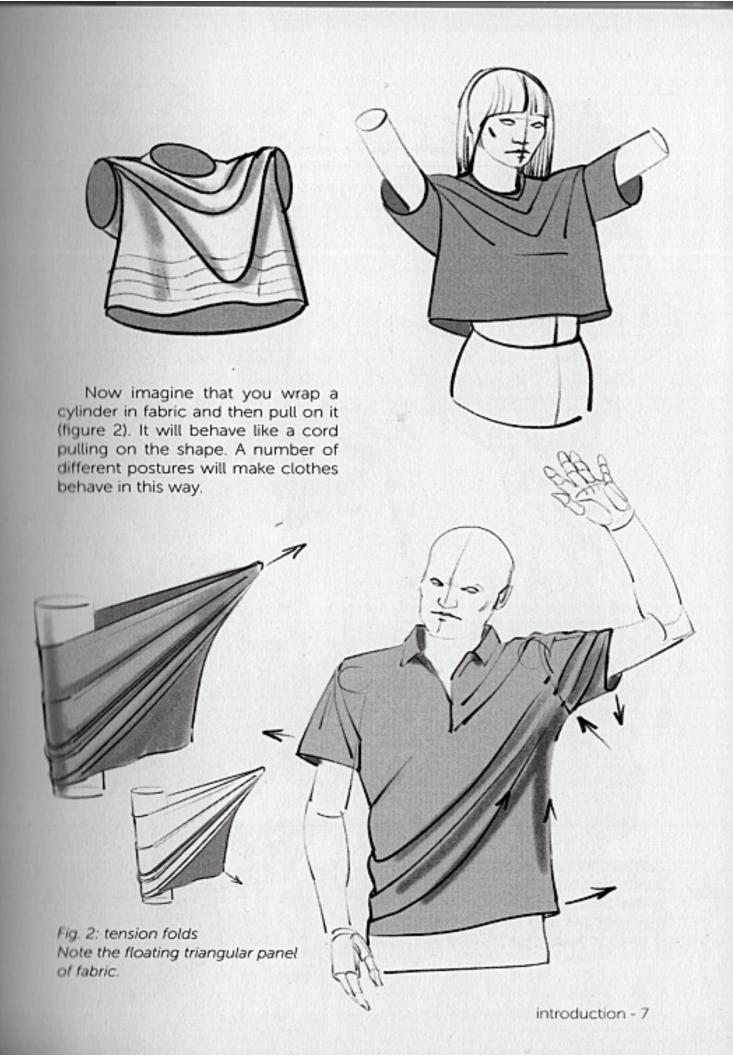
want to indicate that my approach is resolutely morphological. The issue here is to understand how the folds are formed and according to what constraints; to distinguish between "true" folds and "false folds" (i.e., creases); and to establish a catalogue of typical postures, along with typical items of clothing. In the context of this small volume, I cannot draw up an exhaustive inventory of current clothing items; even less can I enter into the history of costuming. I have most often chosen Western clothing. Through these items, we can illustrate how folds are created. making it easier for you to imagine modifications to the shapes depending on what your characters look like and what kind of clothing you are going to have them wear.

#### introduction

In the spirit of the other titles in this series, the "morpho" way is to simplify the various figures to the extreme, reduce their number to a few cases, and extract a simple and memorable logic from them in order to allow for realistic imaginative drawing. Thus, figures 1 through 5 illustrate the main shapes that we will find throughout the plates in this book.

Take a rectangle of fabric (figure 1), hang it up by two of its ends, and you will get the kinds of curved folds that can also be found on a piece of clothing suspended between two raised arms, a skirt resting on the thighs in a sitting position, or a simple poncho hung over shoulders.







Now wrap your cylinder in a tube of fabric and fold it (figure 3). This will automatically cause flexion folds to appear, directed toward the point of tension at the angle of the fold. Following the same logic as in the preceding case, we will also find the floating triangular panel of fabric reappearing here. A flexed limb will result in a similar shape.

We find this kind of fold on a pant leg as well as on a sleeve (as well as the floating panel of fabric, if the garment is not constrained at its extremity, for example by an elastic band or a cufflink).



A tube of elastic fabric can contain a large volume. It stretches and then forms a series of perpendicular form-fitting folds. In the same way, two cylinders slid into a tube of fabric will, if we pull them apart, cause tensions that will bind the entire assemblage (figure 4).



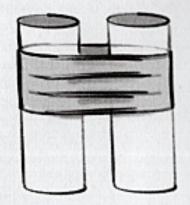
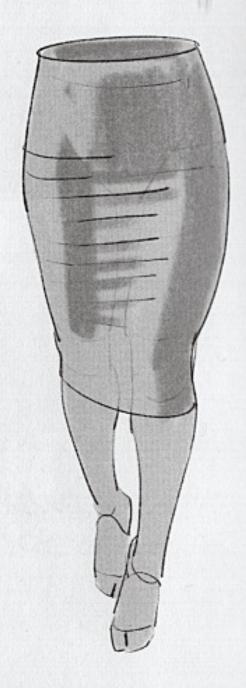


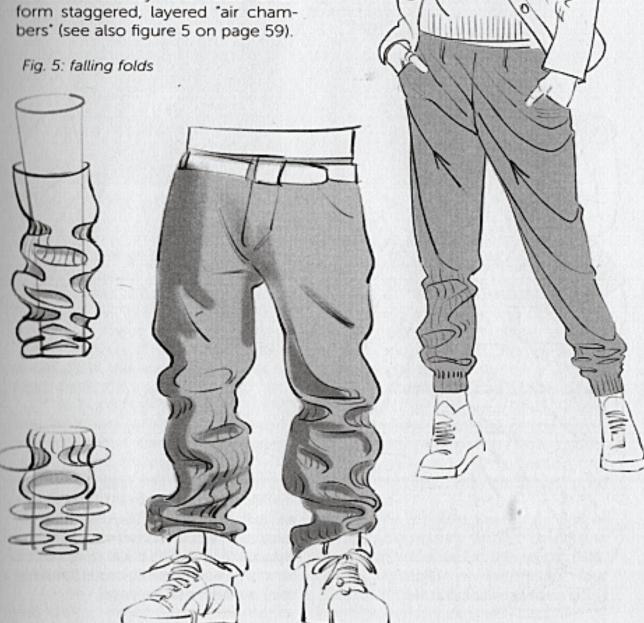
Fig. 4: form-fitting folds

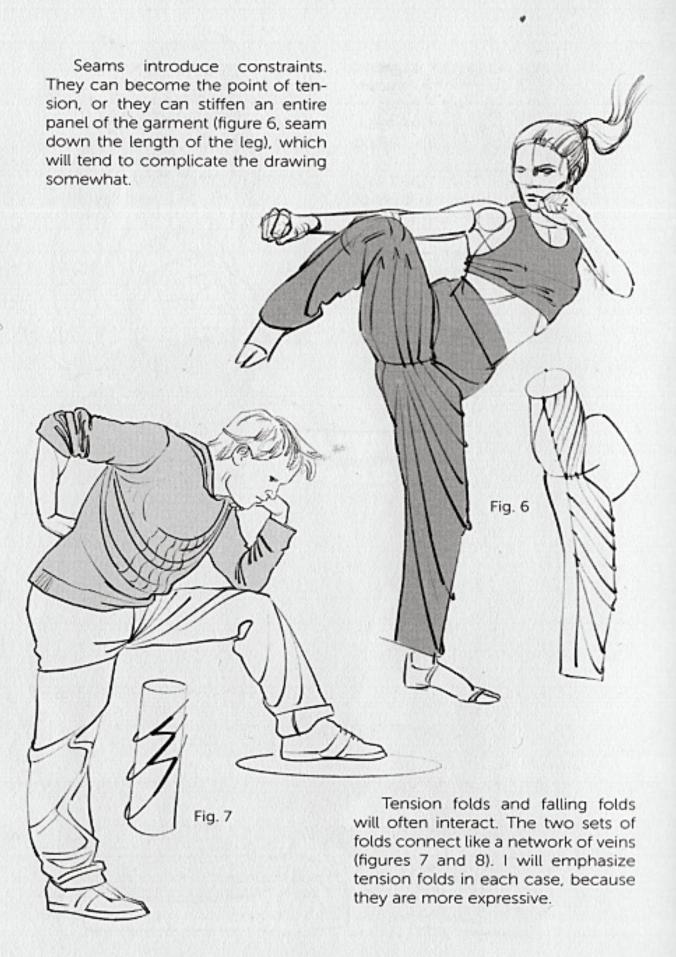


10 | morpho - clothing folds and creases

Conversely, a cylinder of fabric surrounding a volume of smaller diameter will relax and submit to gravity. It will collapse onto itself, forming accordion-shaped "falling folds" (figure 5).

These folds are random and vary a lot depending on the flexibility of the fabric: they will be fluid in silk or nylon, they will "snap" in thick jeans, et cetera. However, we can nevertheless deduce a potential logic, a certain tendency: the folds often form staggered, layered "air chambers" (see also figure 5 on page 59).





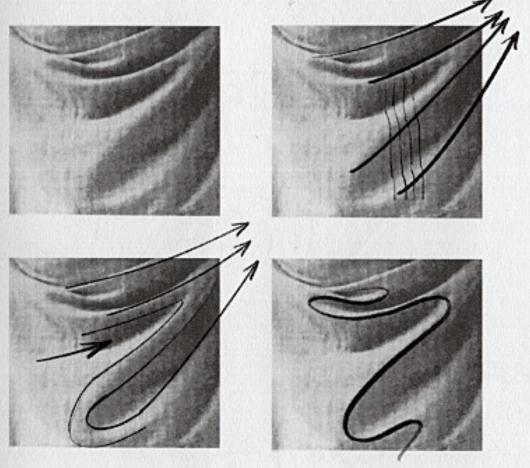


Fig. 8

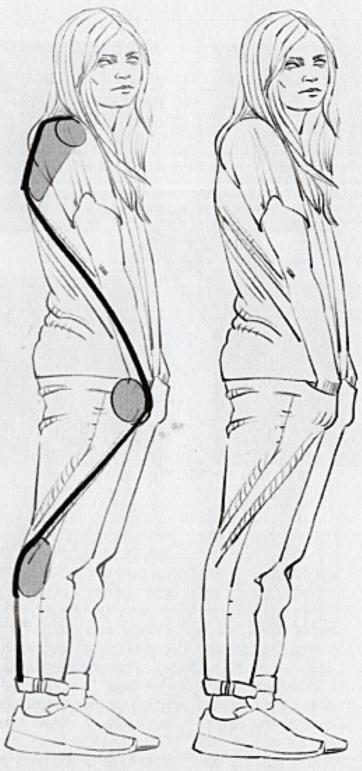
The drawings on the plates in the following pages are accompanied by a number of sketches. You will find many of them that correspond to the five cases mentioned above. The repetition of these sketches is the basis of the learning process offered here.

This book is organized to match the structure of the other books in this series. I start with the upper body: in the chapter on the "Head and Neck" you will find several examples of headwear and scarves. For that area, it will be sufficient to rely on the roundness of the head and to take note of a few examples of knots around the neck.

In the chapter on the "Torso," we will look at some simple garments, including T-shirts, but also clothes with buttons, each of which constitutes a tension point that is likely to pull on the fabric depending on the wearer's posture and body size. A strongly muscled body, a large chest, and body fat are all simple cases to be dealt with.

The chapter on the "Upper Limb" outlines the changes that follow from various positions of the arms, particularly when they are raised. Of course, it is to be expected that these tensions will continue onto the torso.

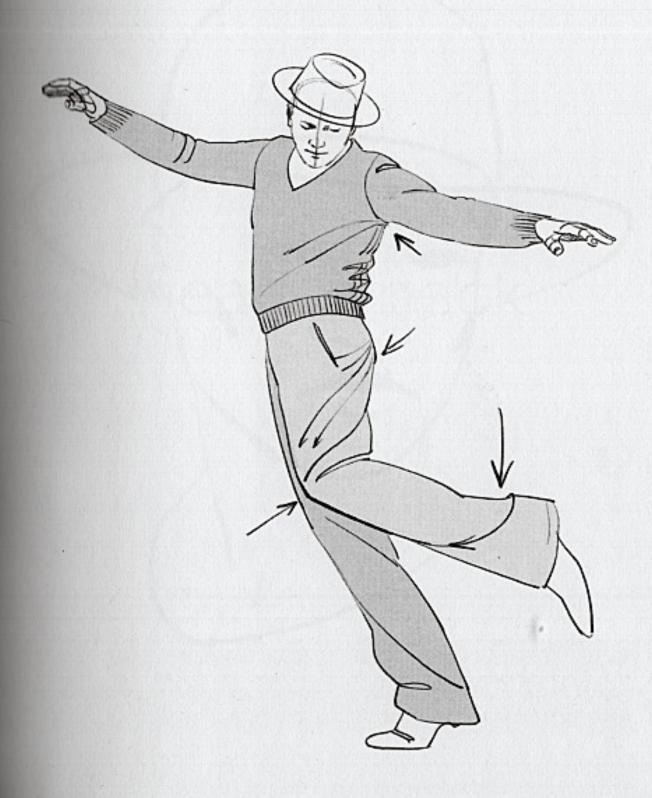
In the chapter on the "Lower Limb," long pants, shorts, and skirts are all represented in the most common postures of extension and flexion (especially in the seated position) to various degrees.



I hope that this presentation will be useful to you in your comprehension of the material. Don't lose sight of the expressive potential of clothing folds, which allow you to show lines of force inside the silhouette that will in turn, if they are in

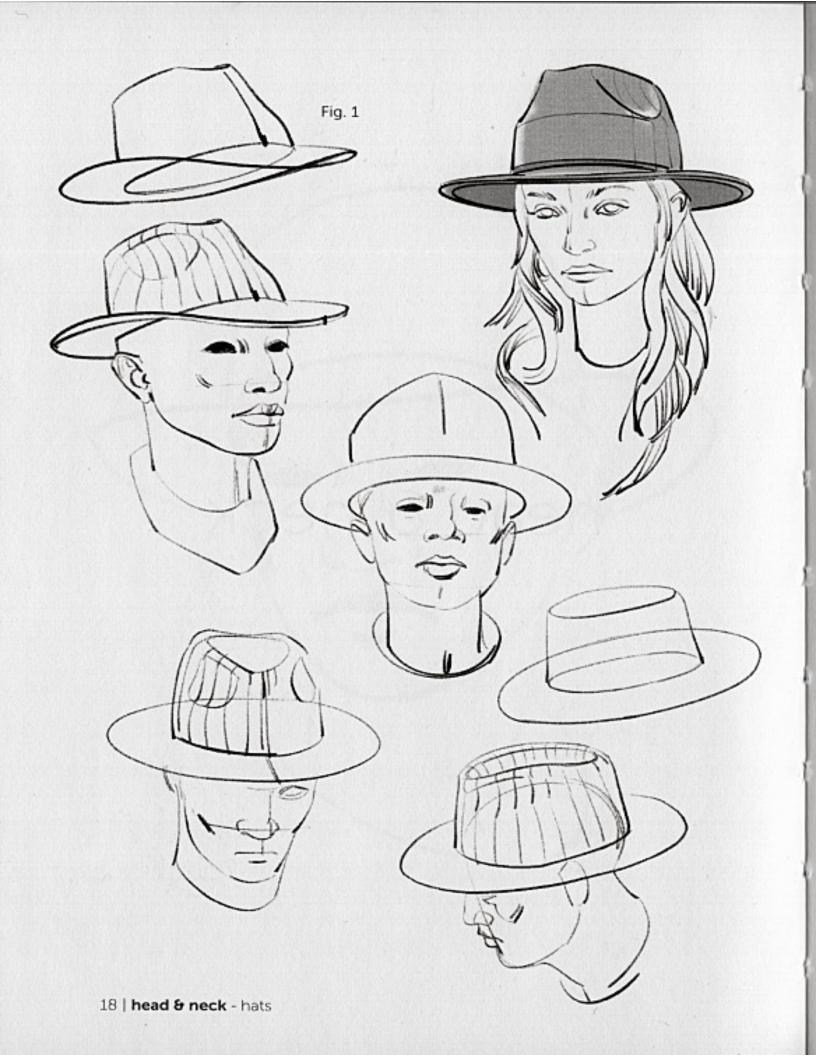
alignment with the attitude that you have chosen, reinforce the point you are making. A hand movement can have repercussions all the way to the back of the body and even down to the ground.

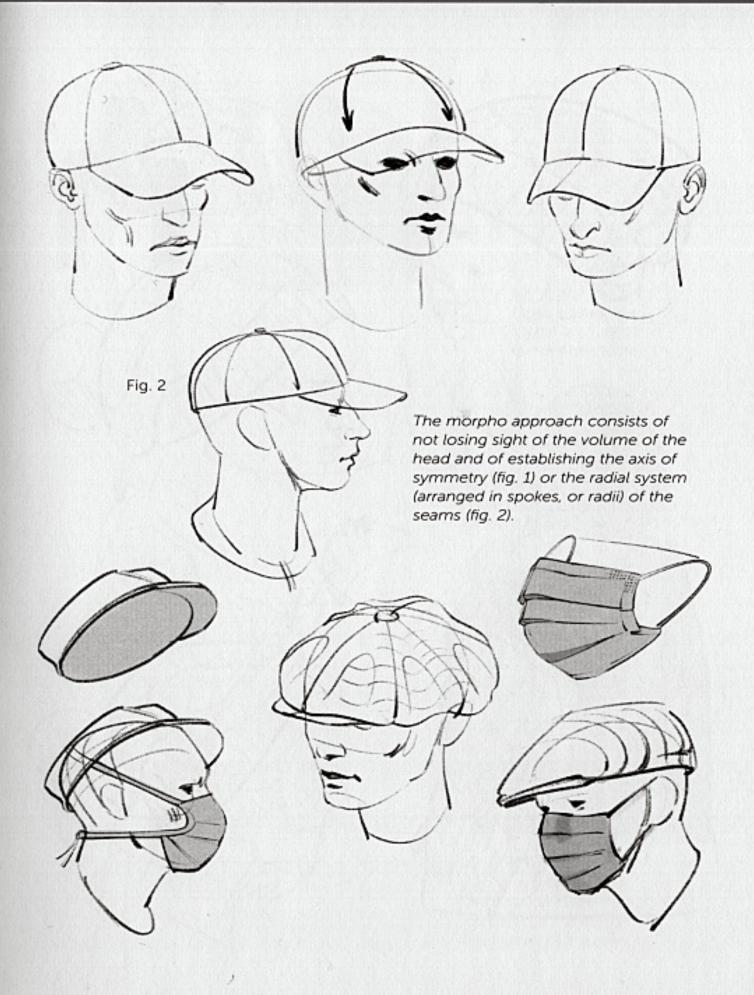
## plates





head & neck



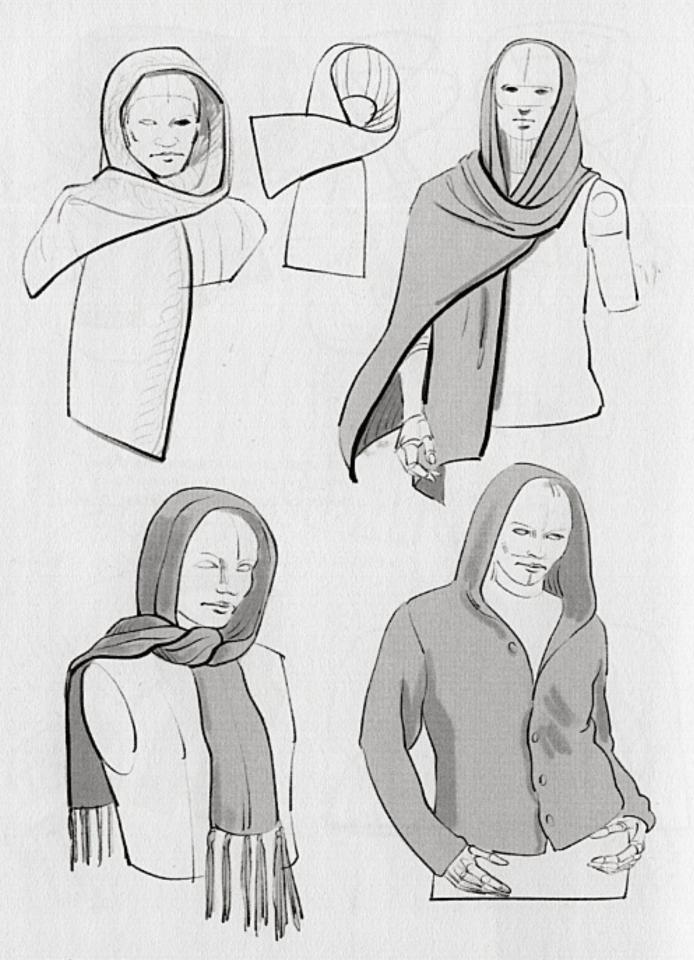






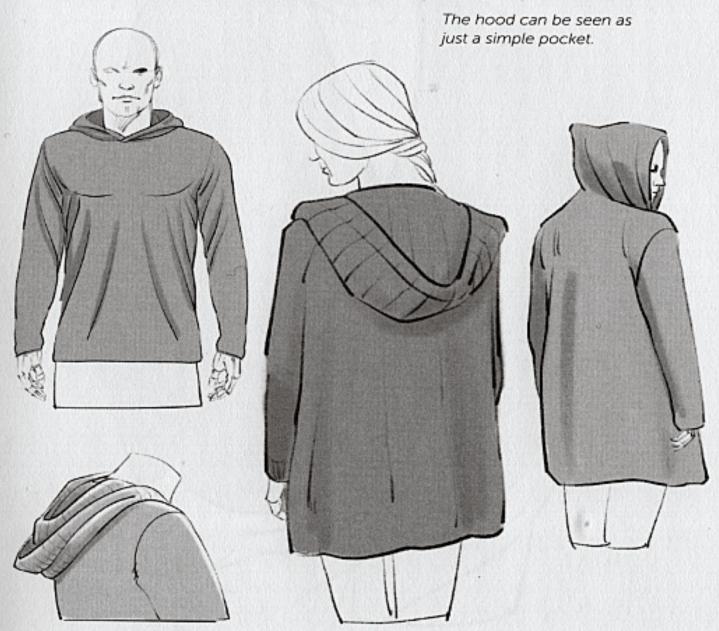


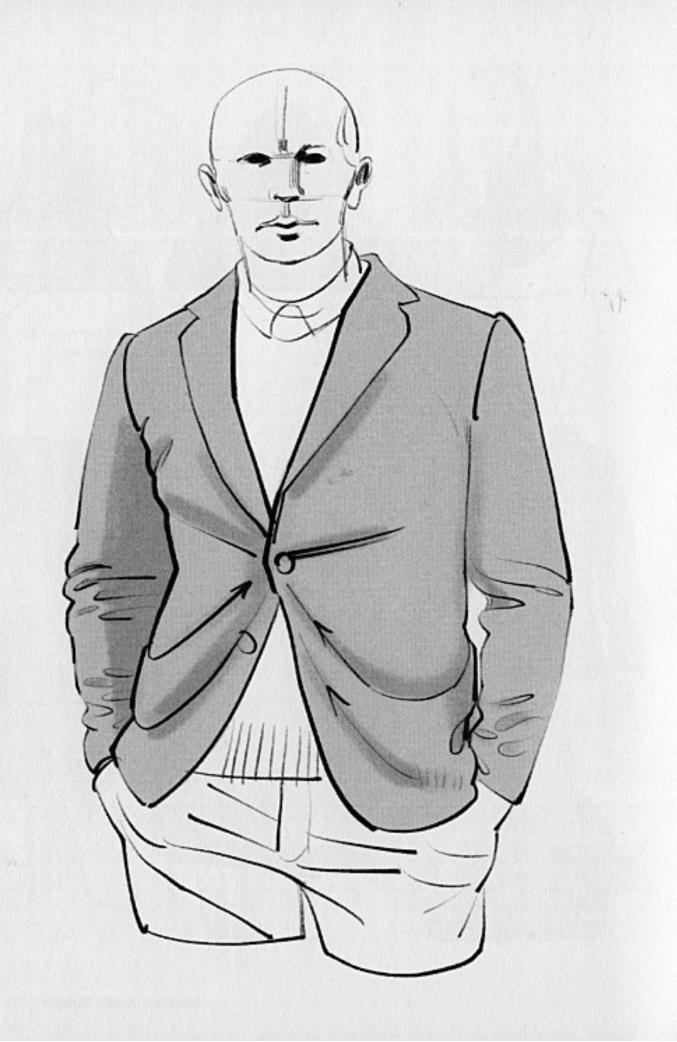




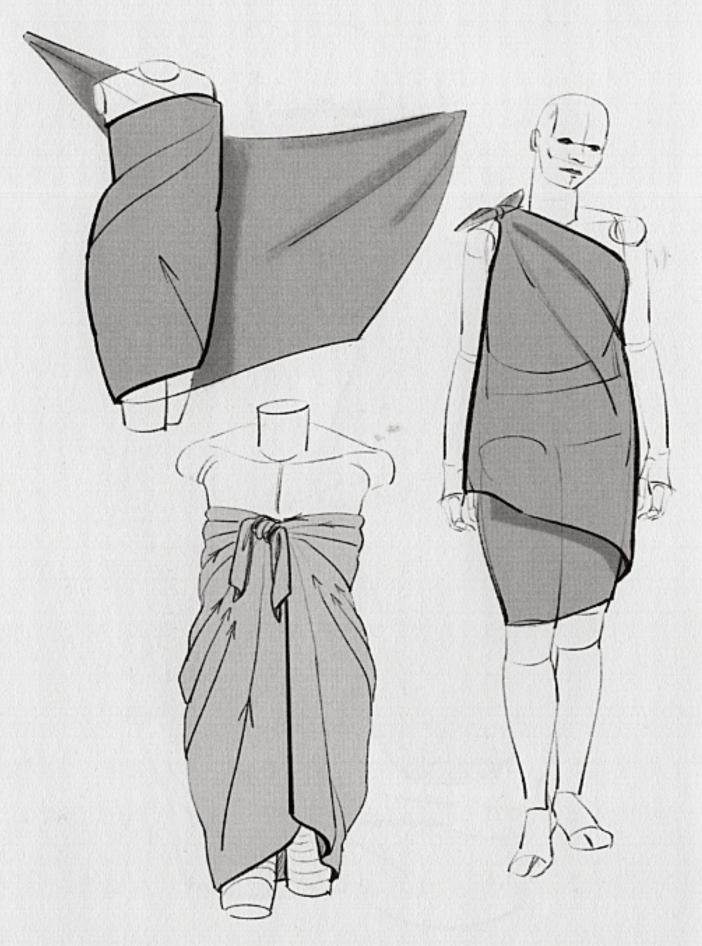
24 | head & neck- scarves

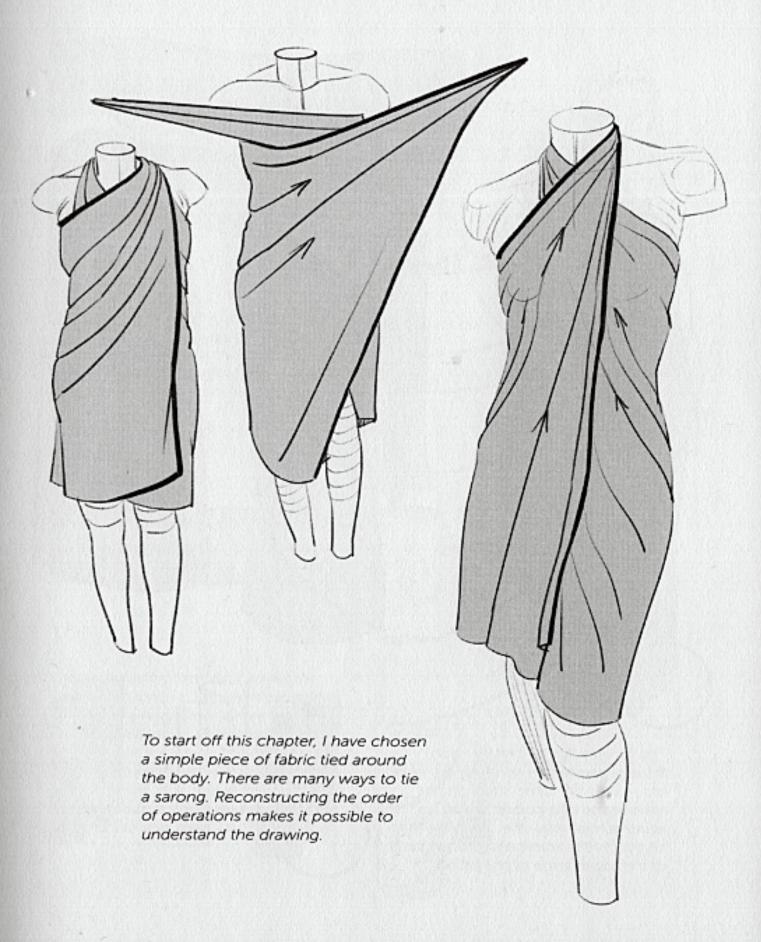


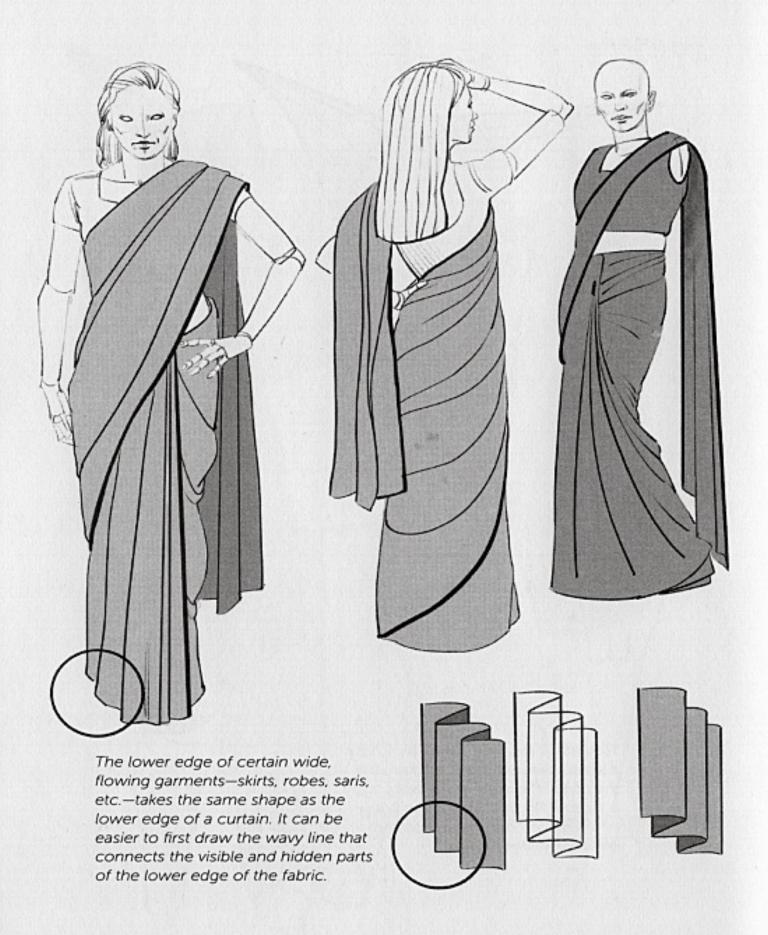


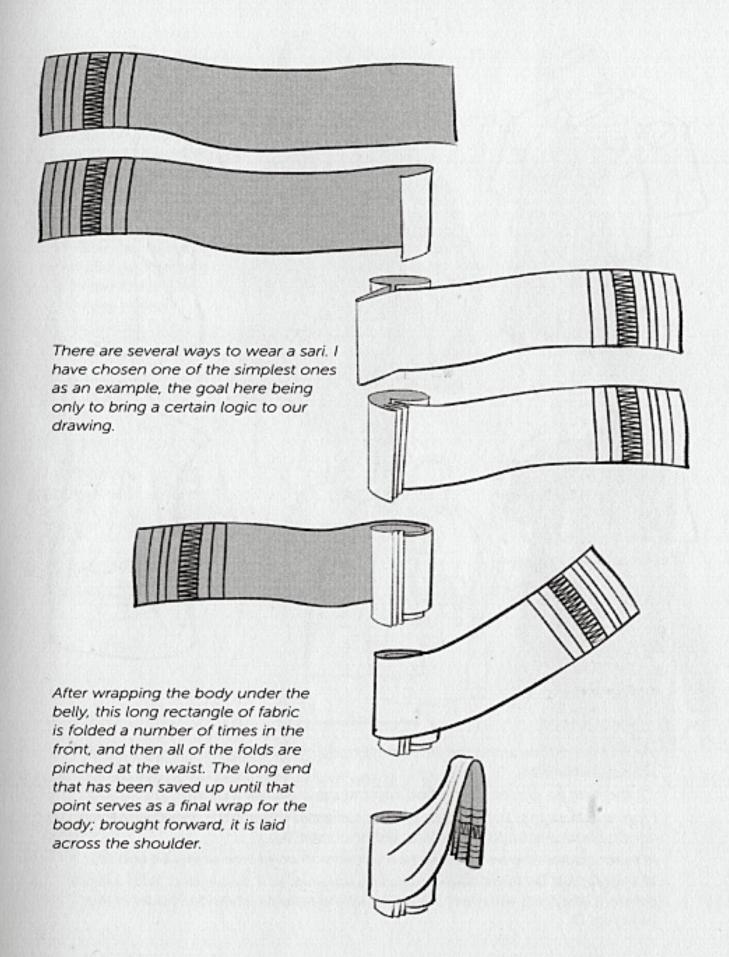


torso









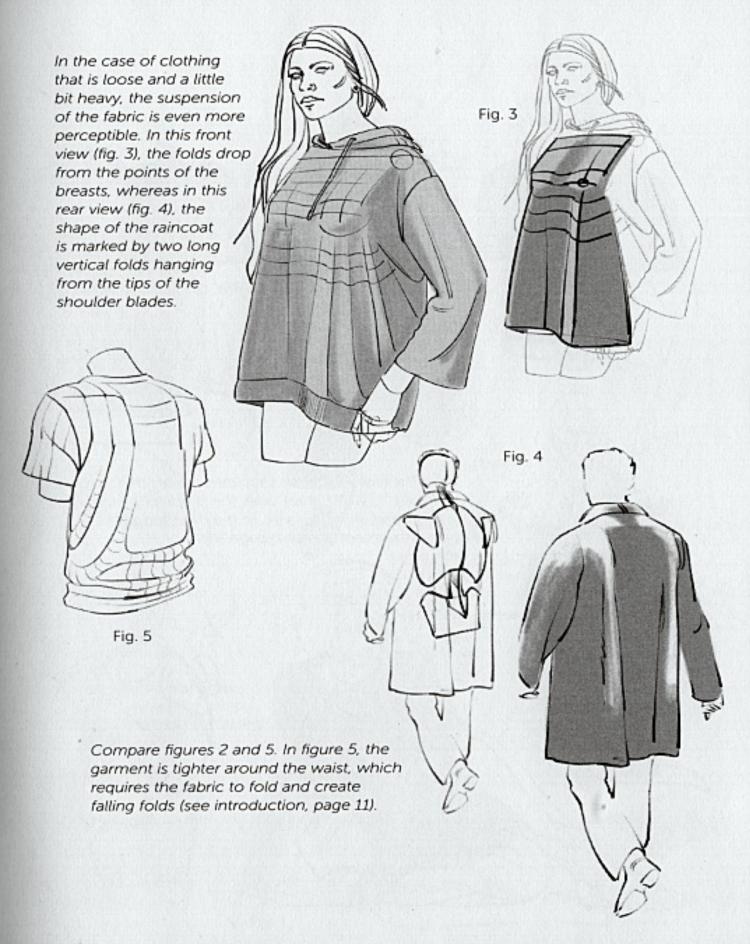


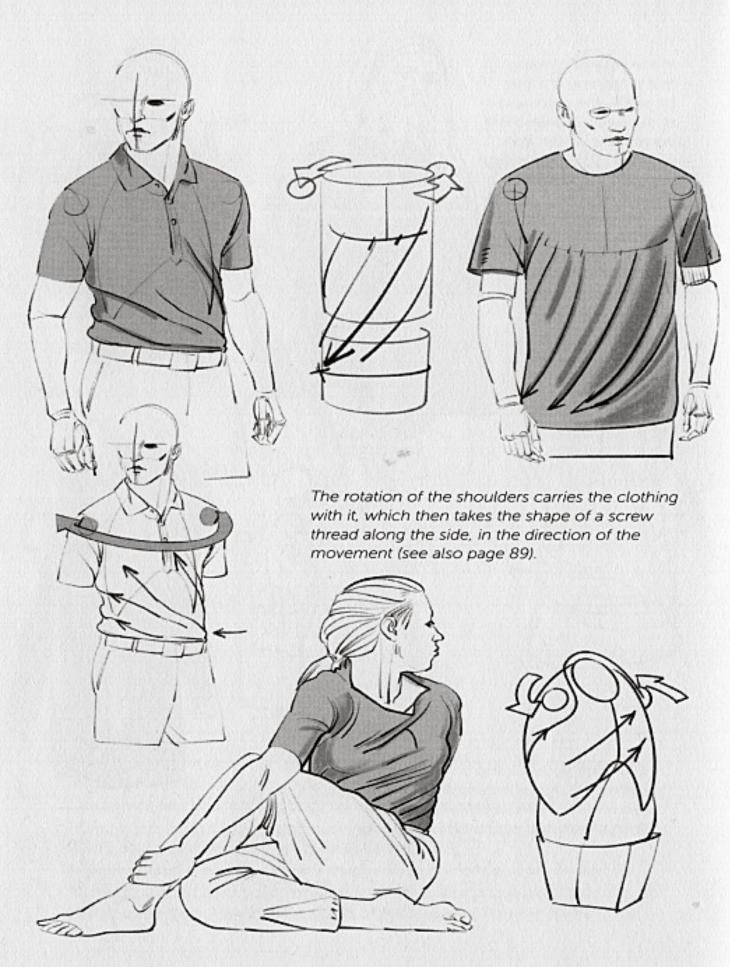
When the arms lie along the side of the body, they have no influence on the shape of the torso.

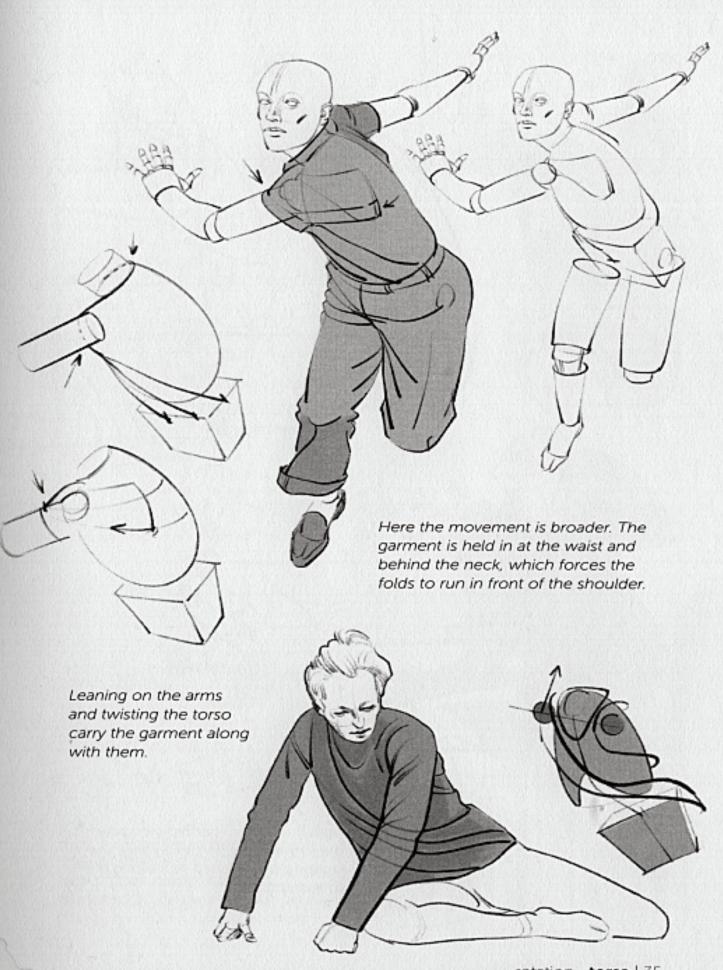
Clothes will be closest to the body on the most voluminous parts.

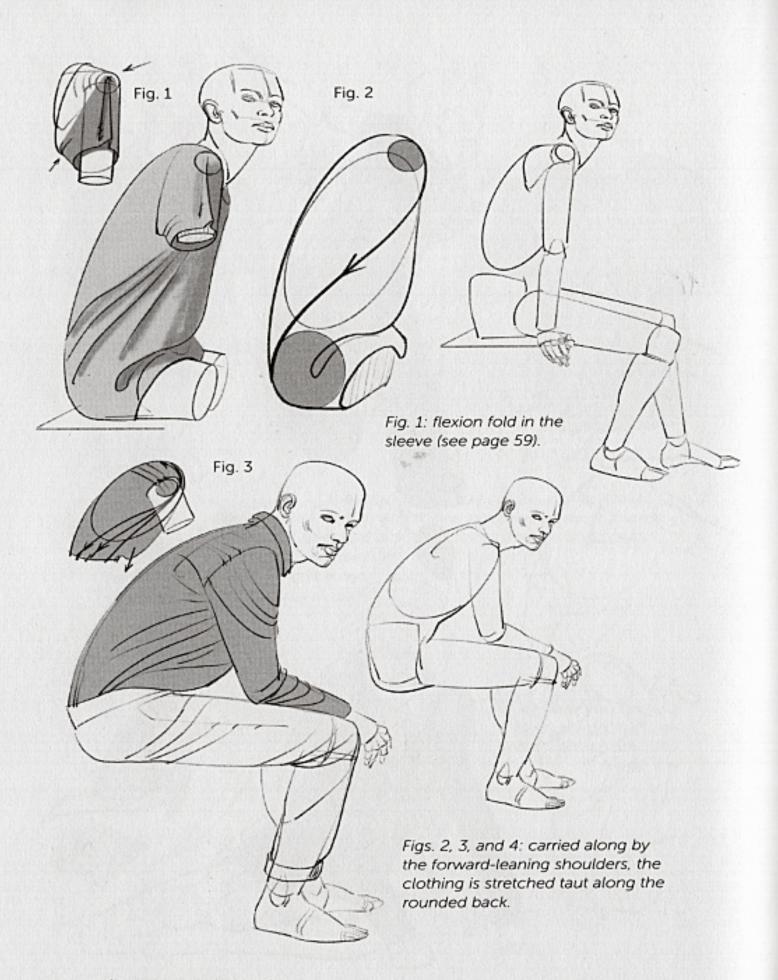
From the front (fig. 1), the chest is what dominates the shape, whether we are talking about pectorals or breasts (see also page 82).

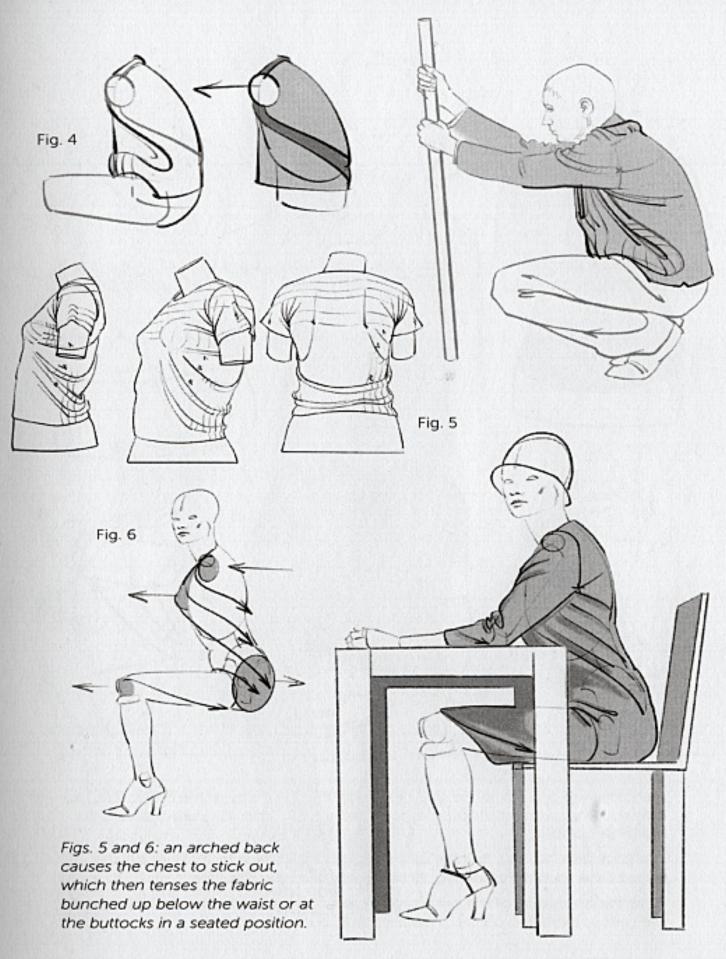
In fatter bodies, the belly is often a third tension point (see pages 54 and 55). The fabric will fall from these protruding volumes as if suspended. With a loose garment, the folds will meet the points of the scapula (shoulder blade) in the back (fig. 2).

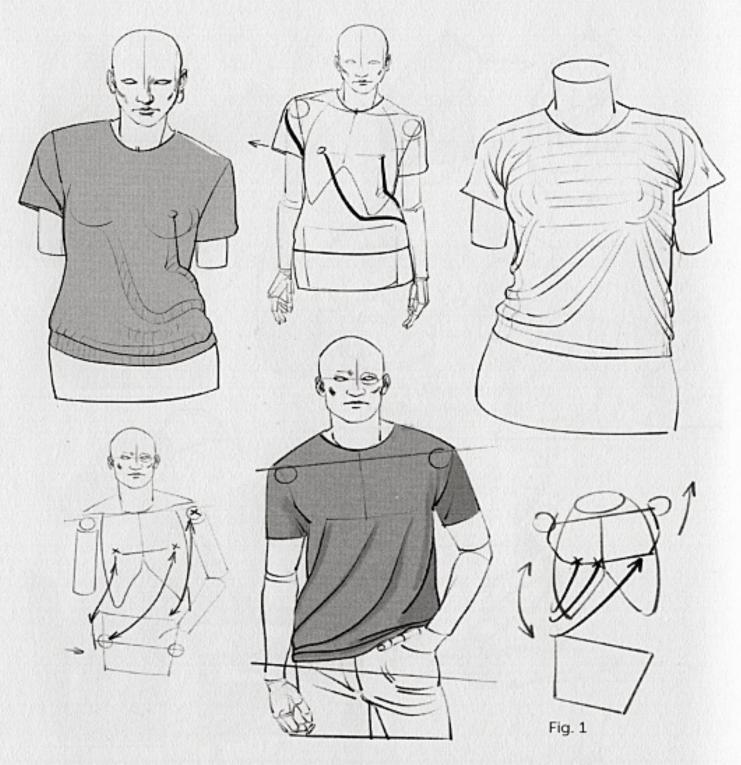










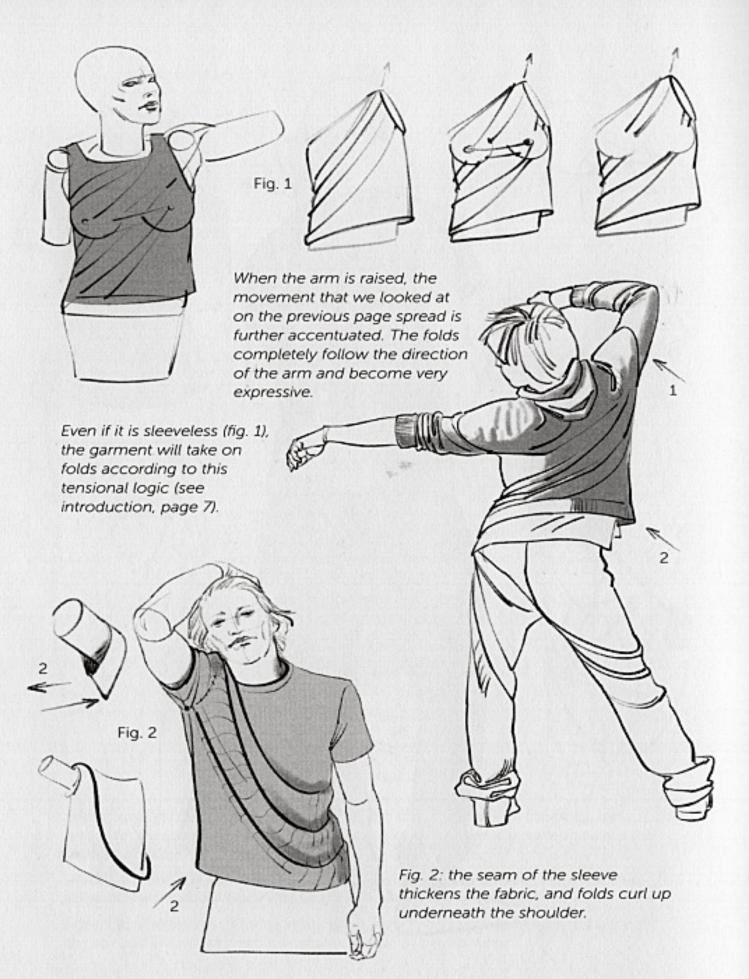


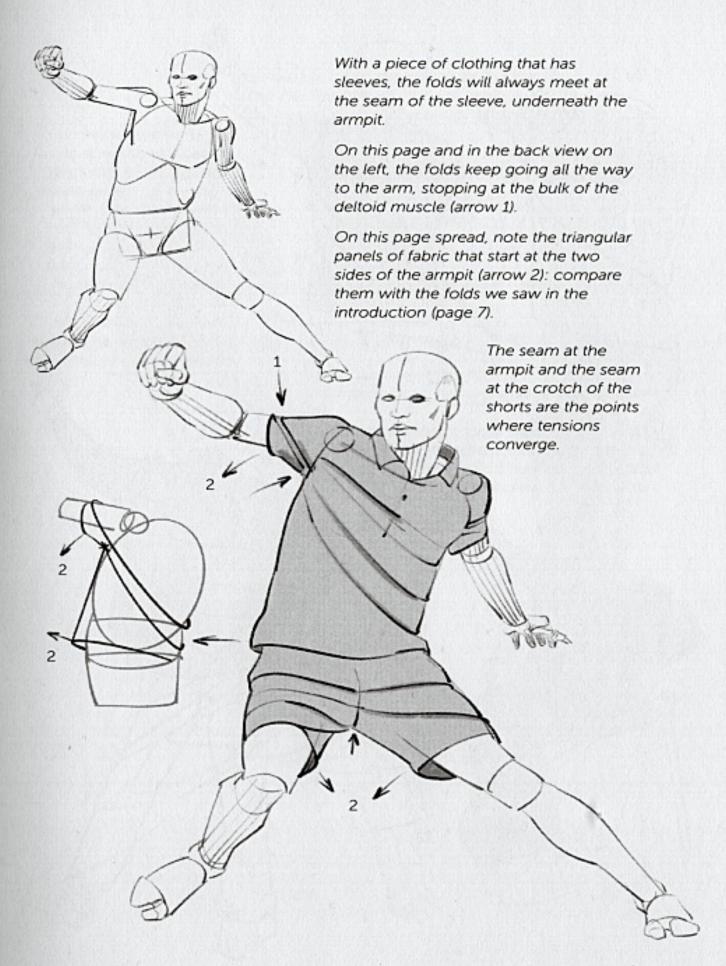
Standing with one hip to the side throws off the symmetry of the body; on one side, the garment sits on the waist, and on the other it is pulled toward the higher shoulder.

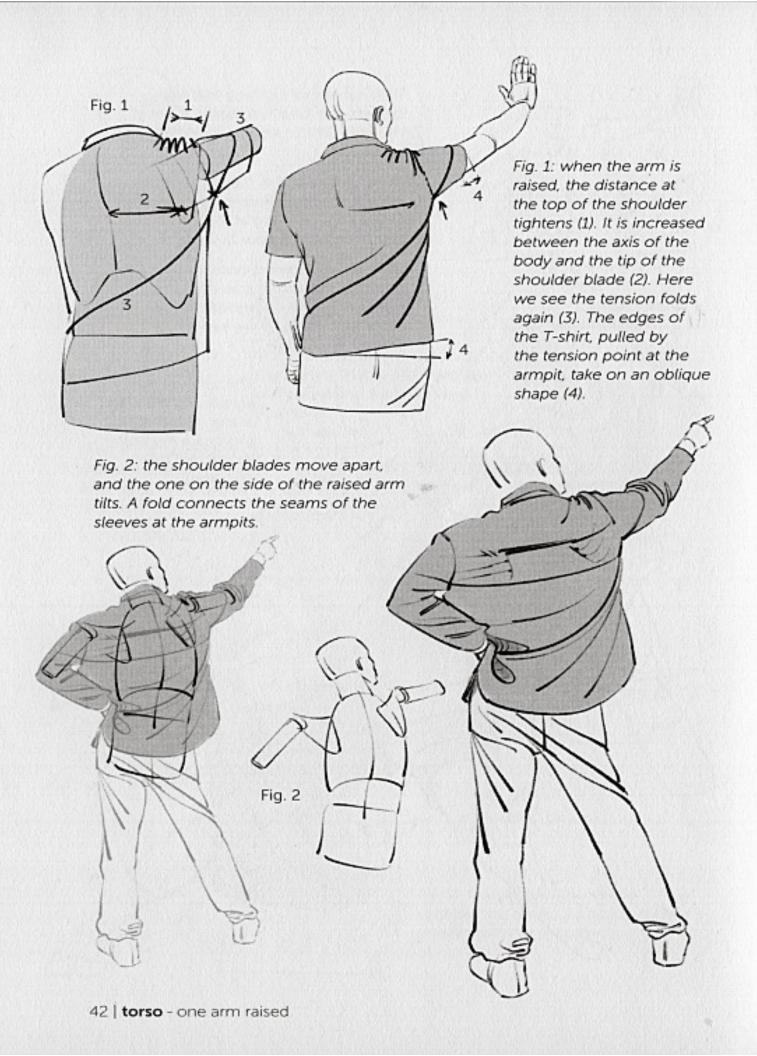
In a back view, we can find the mirror image of the same logic. Here it is the edge of the shoulder blade (fig. 2) that determines the direction.

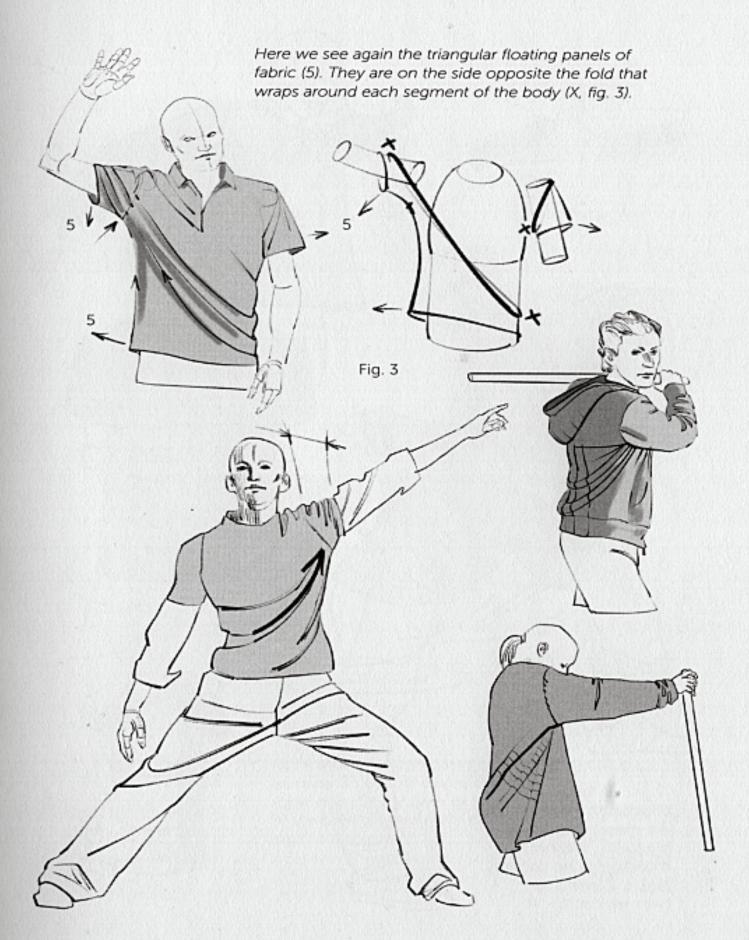
Note the alternation of the primary folds, which from the back view bounce off the various extruding points: shoulder blade, buttocks, knee.

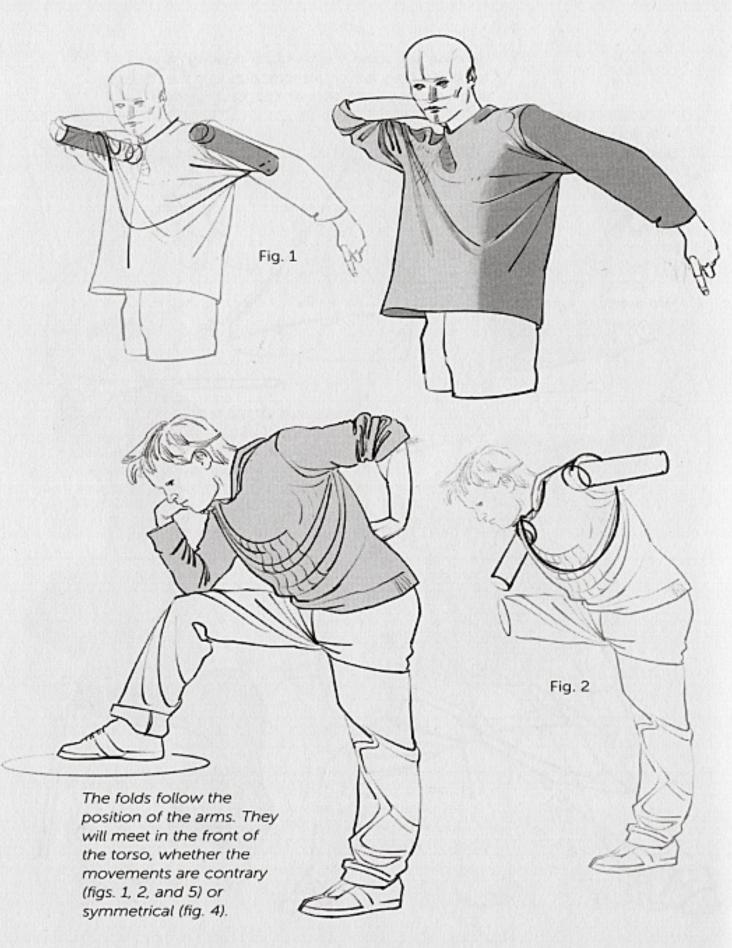


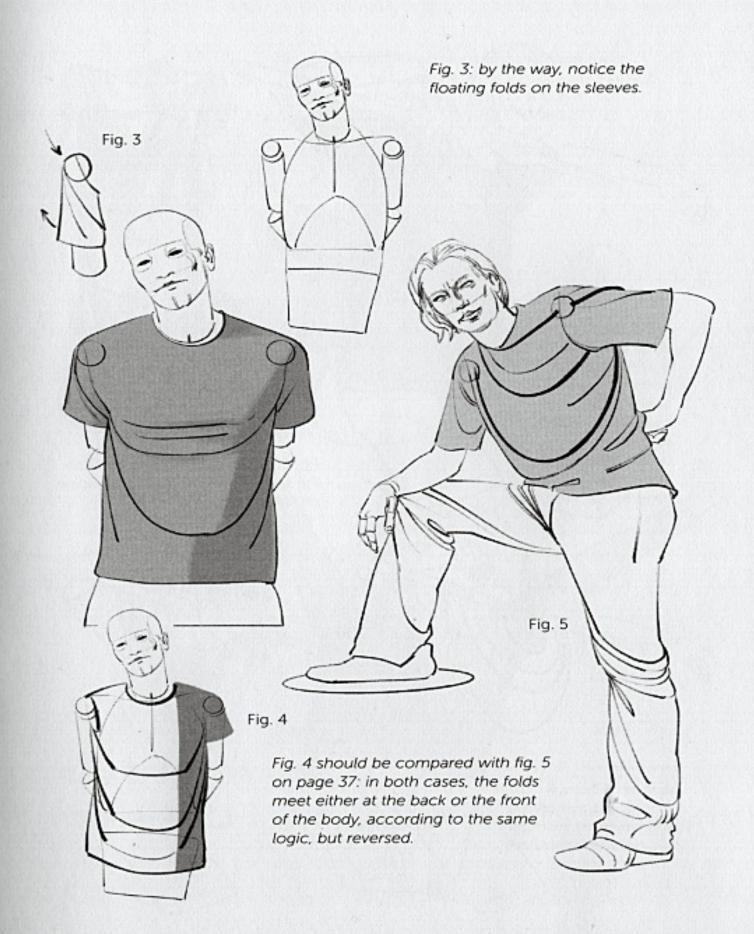


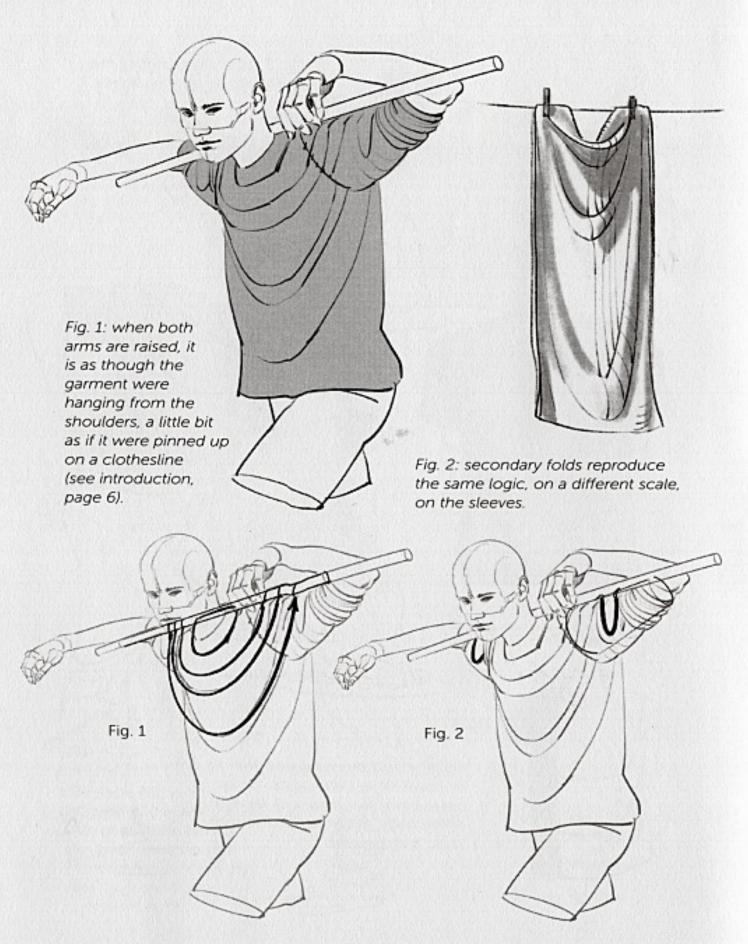


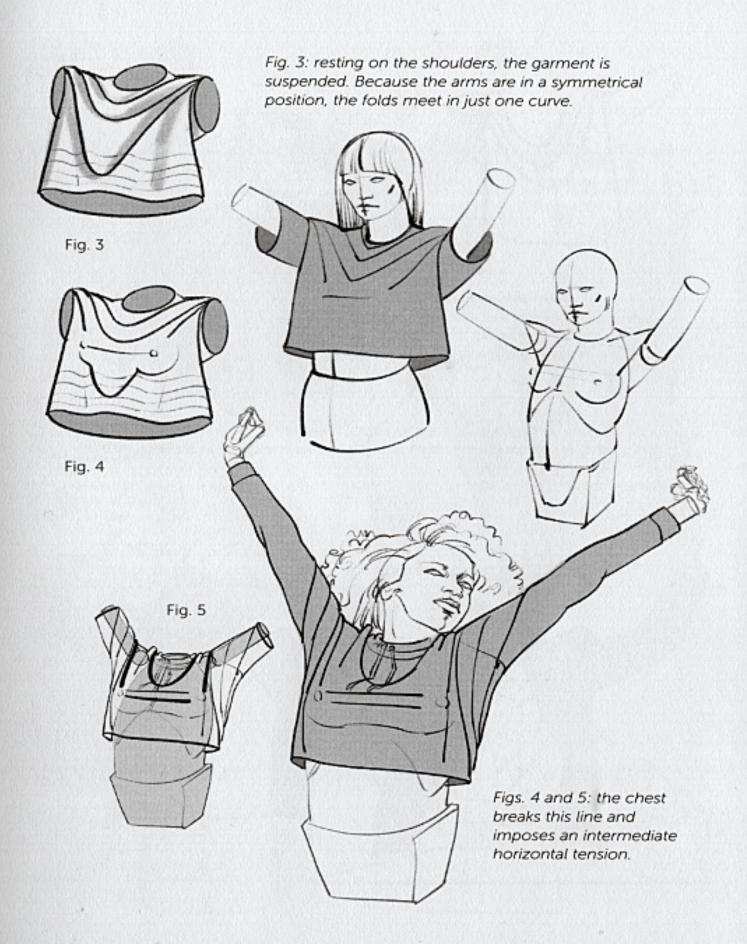


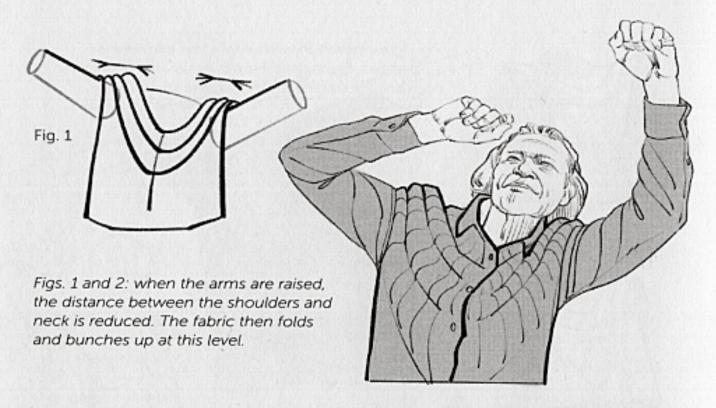




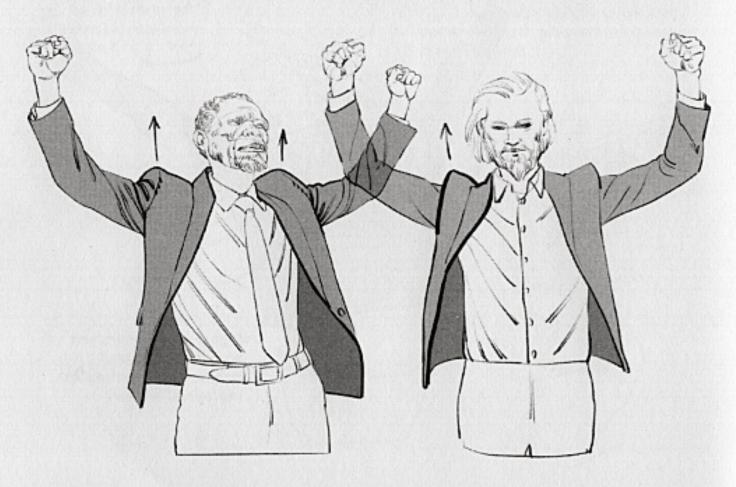


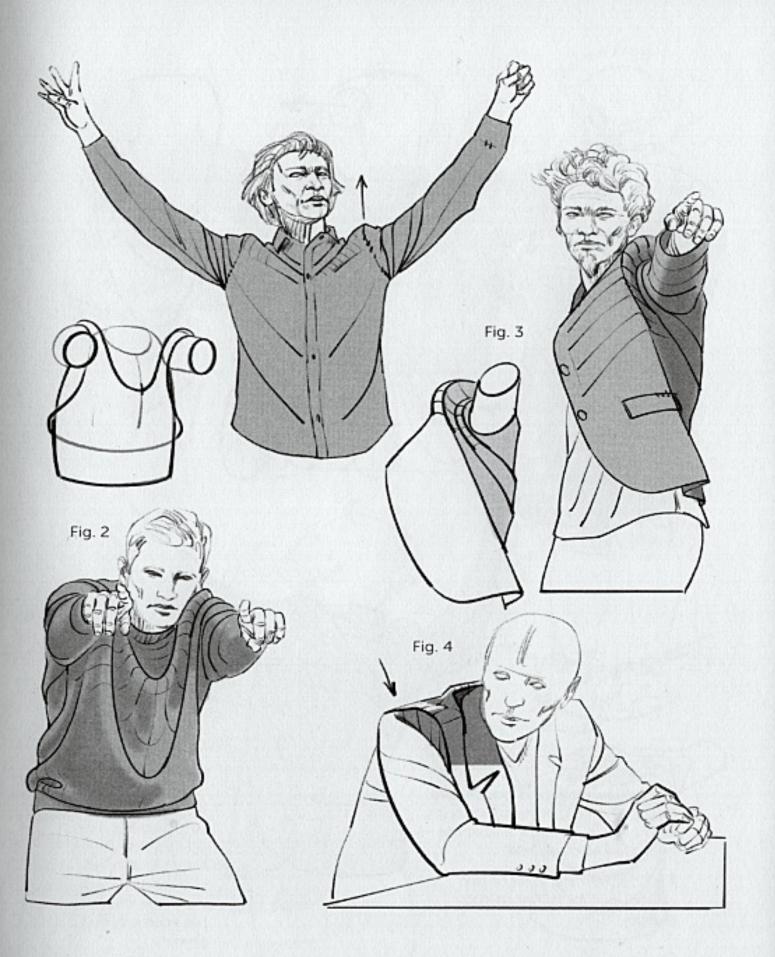


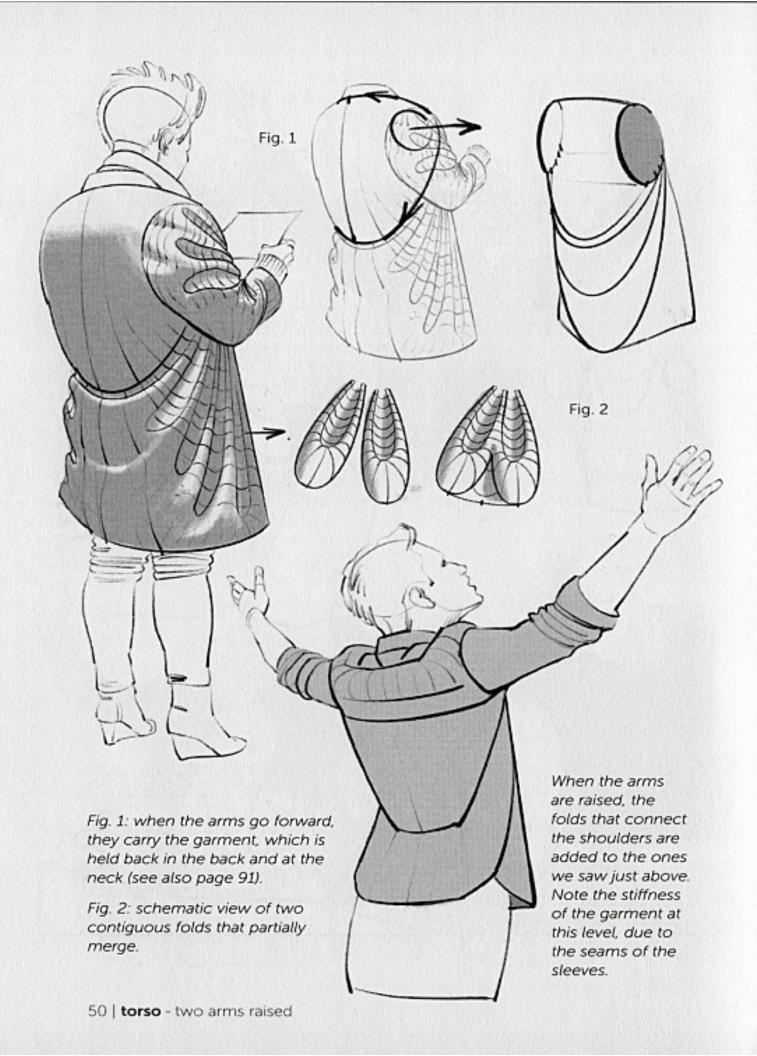


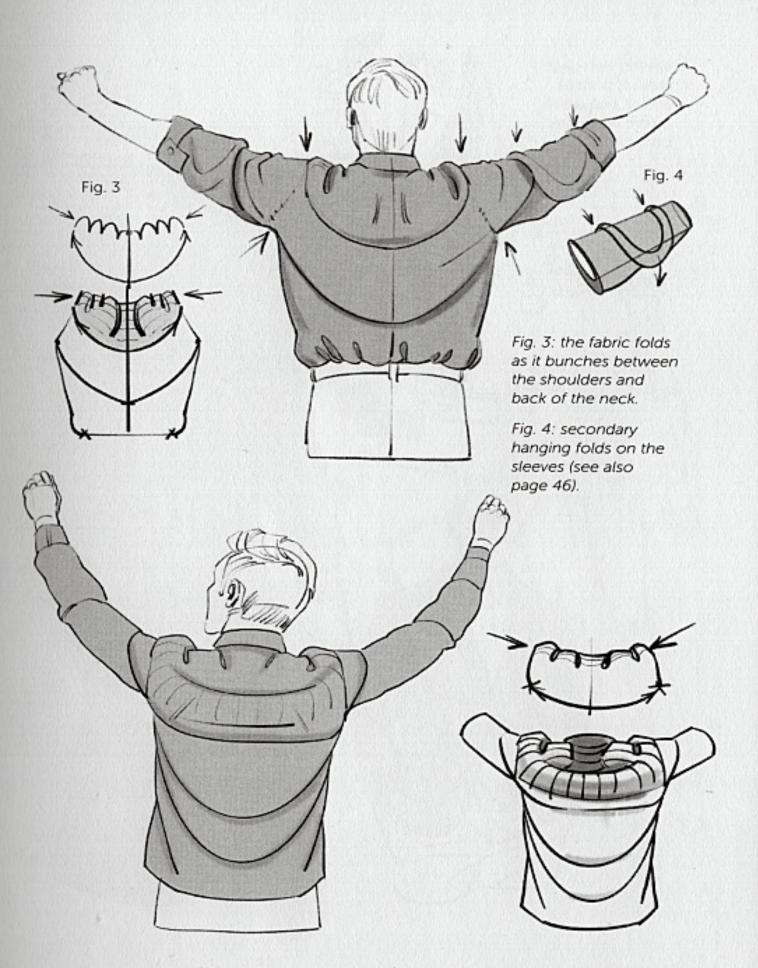


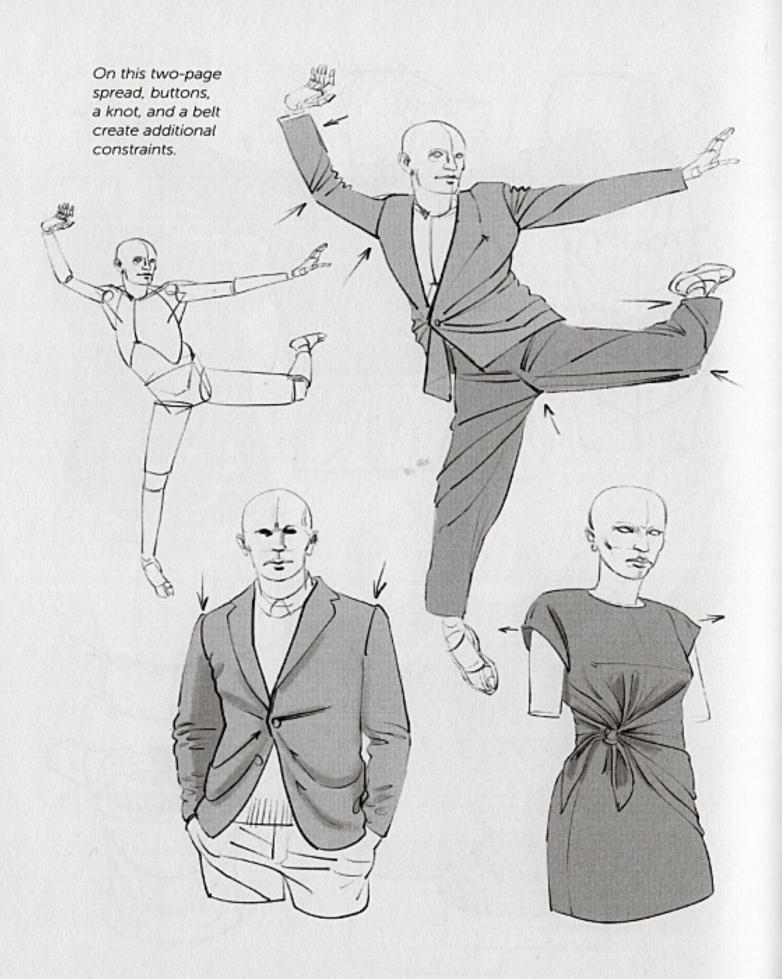
Figs. 3 and 4: at the level of the shoulders, the seams of the sleeves often make the garments stiff and force them to be raised as one block in these positions.

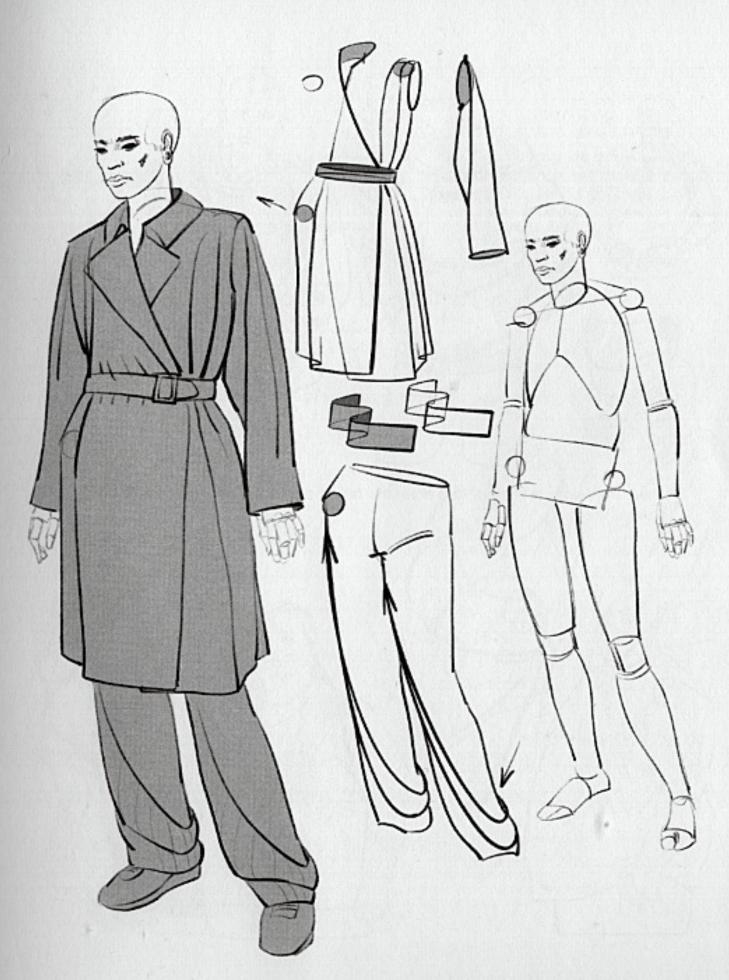








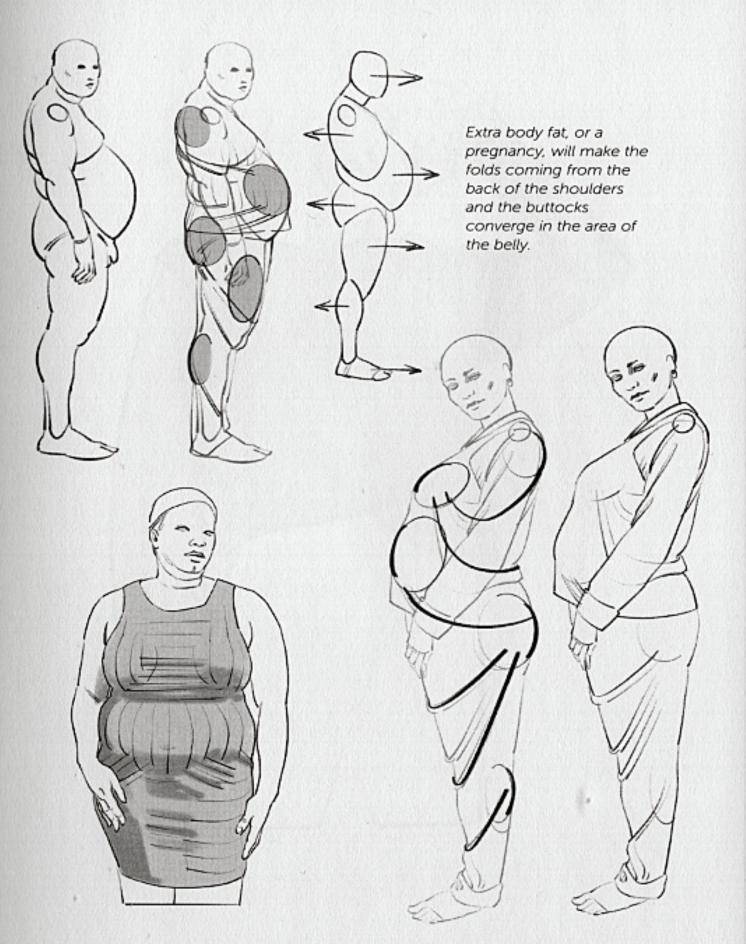


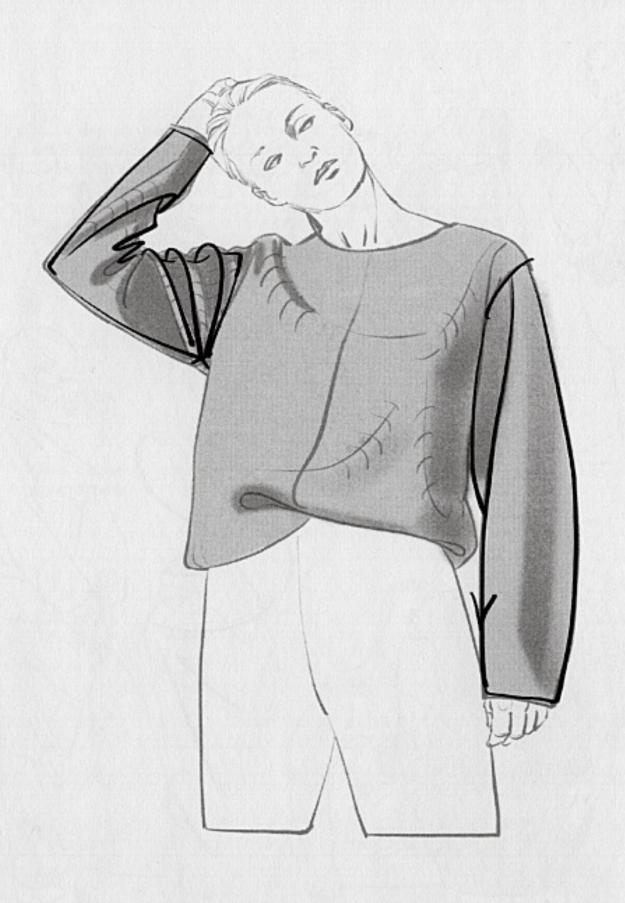




Here, the hands in the pockets draw the fabric, held back behind the shoulders, toward them.



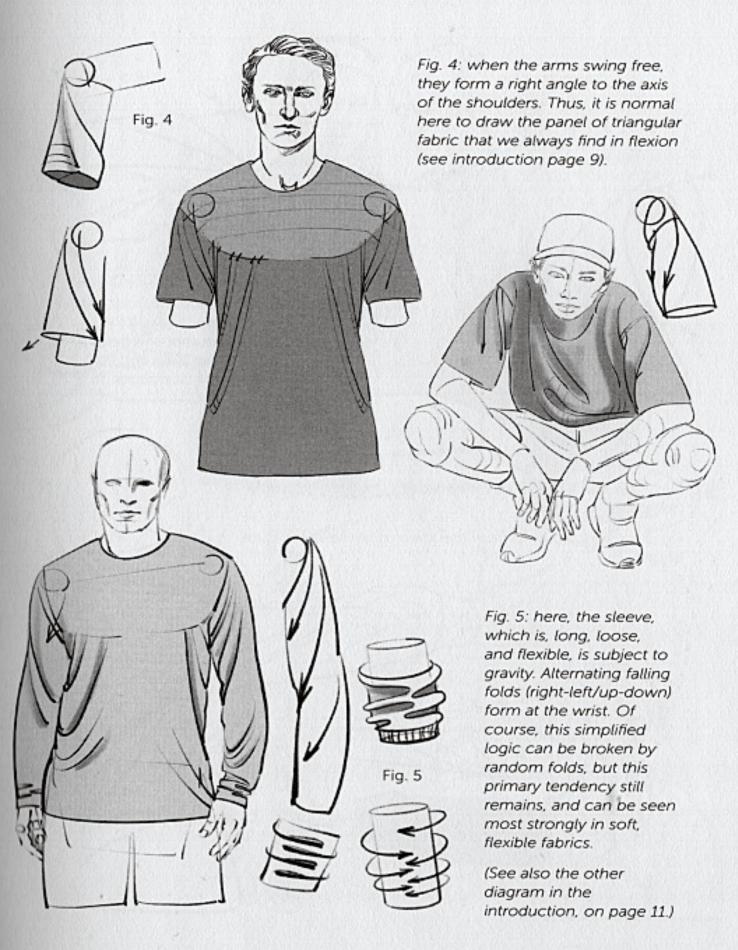


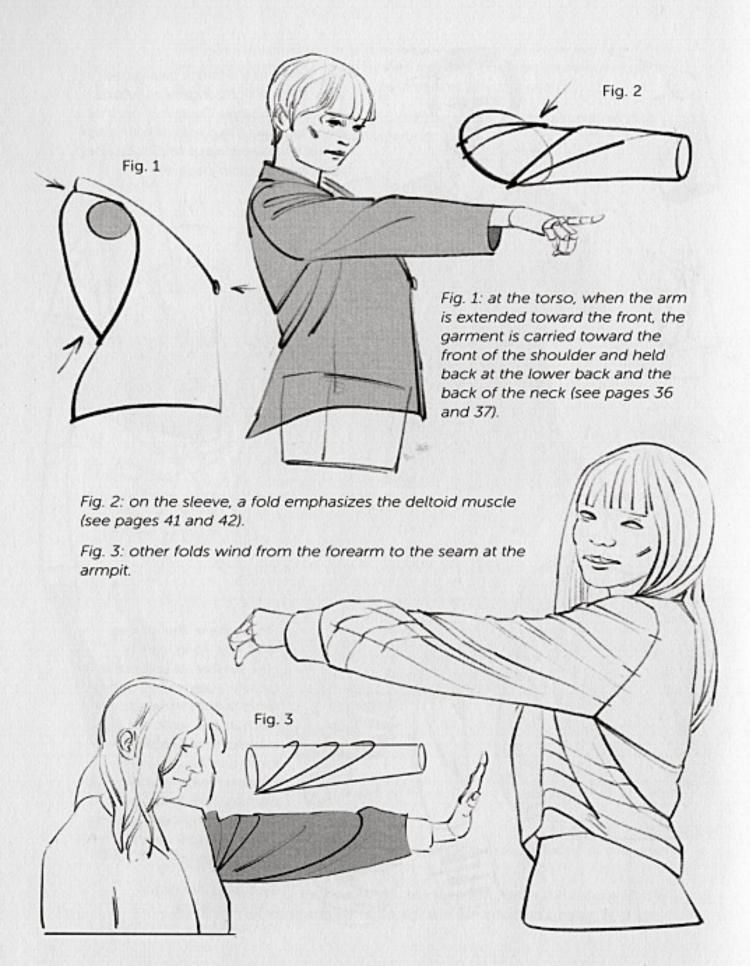


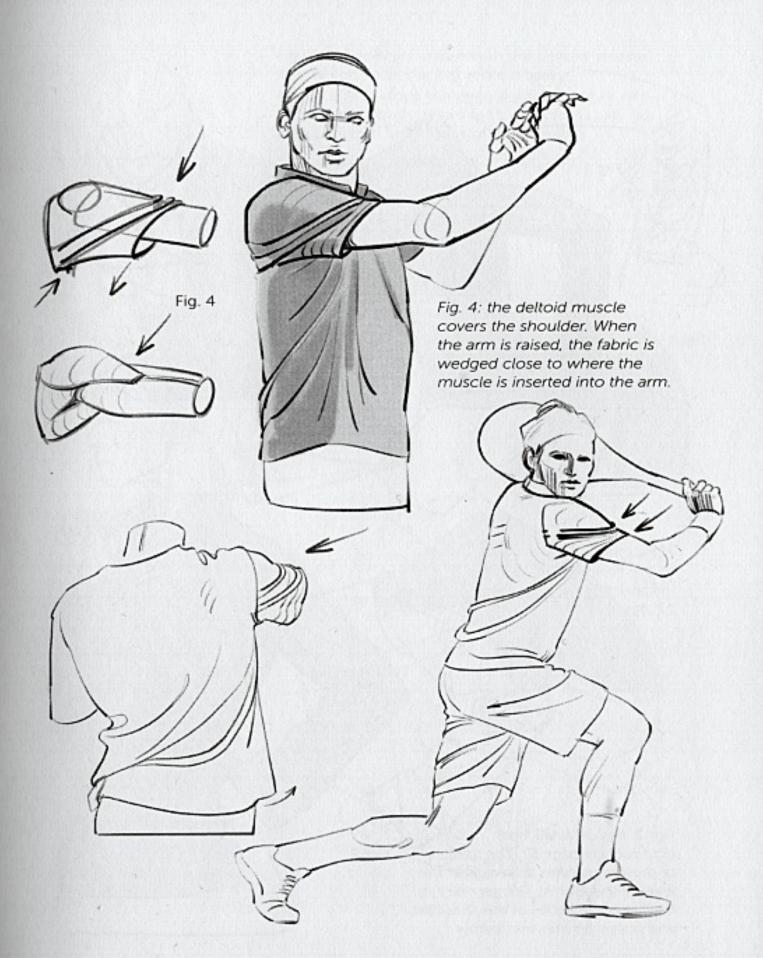
upper limb

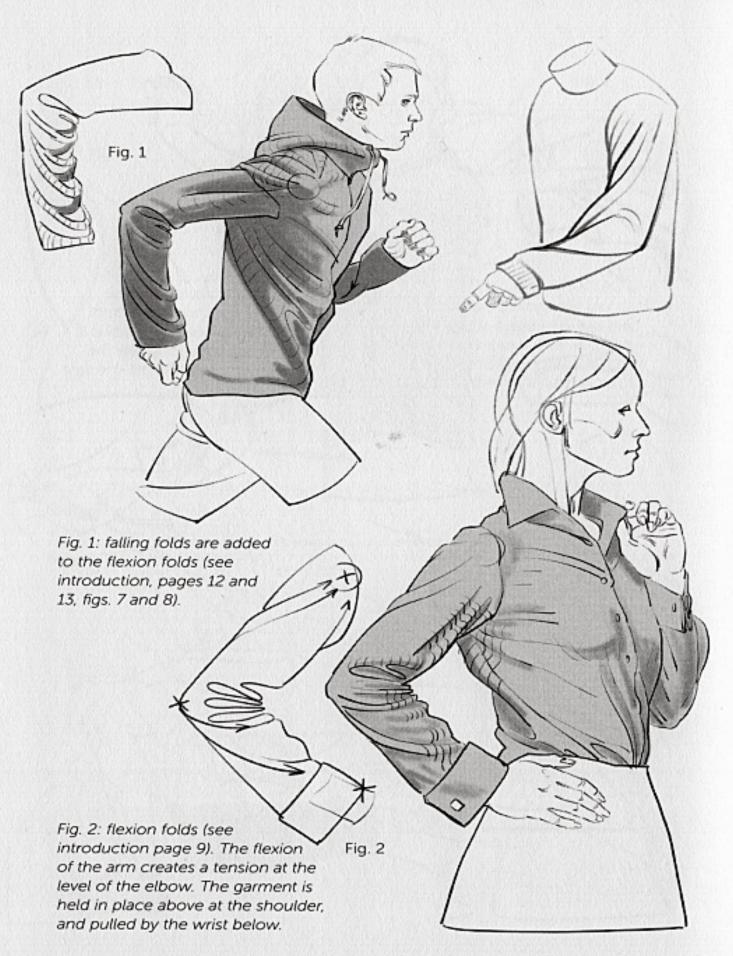
The natural position for the hand is in pronation (here we see it from the back, with the thumb turned in). This position implies a rotation of the radius: the bones of the forearm are crossed (fig. 1). This coiling has repercussions for the shape of the sleeve, whose folds correspond to the anatomical logic. Fig. 1 Fig. 3 Fig. 2: sketch of the flexion folds of a thick, flexible fabric at the level of the elbow.

Fig. 3: in flexion, a fold envelops the forearm, from the elbow to the wrist, still following the same logic (see introduction, page 9).



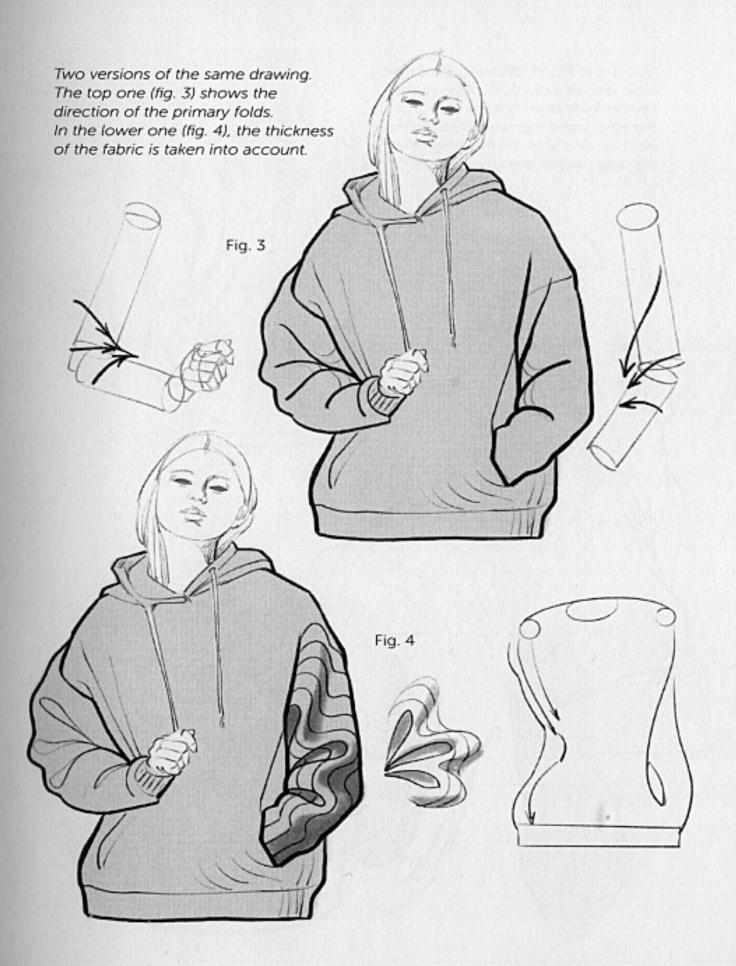


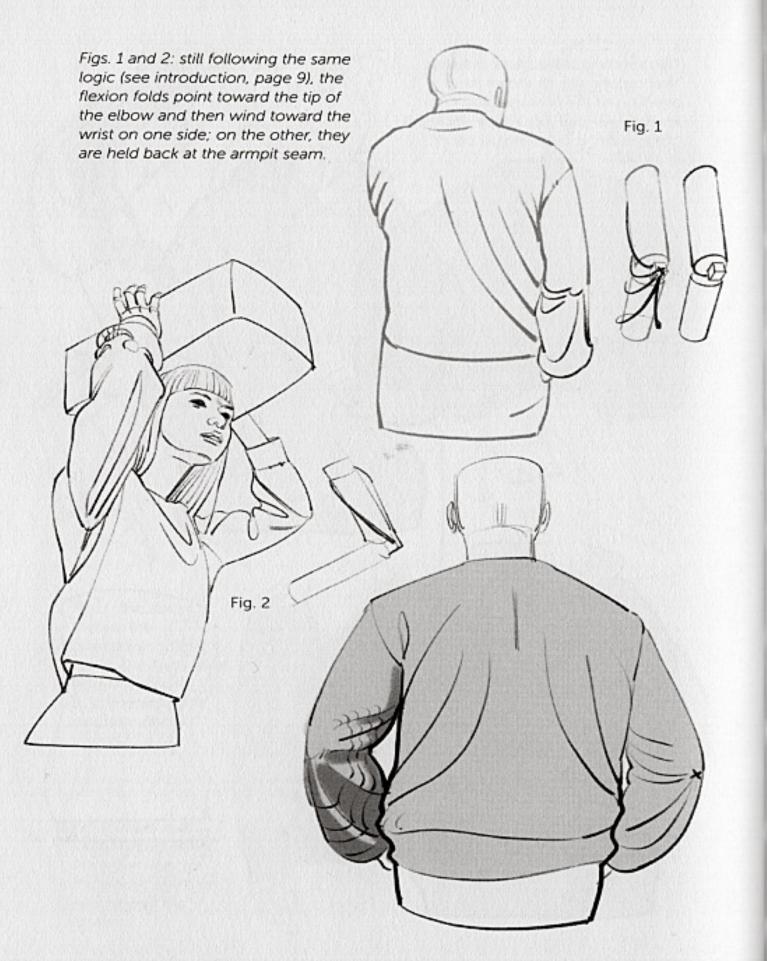






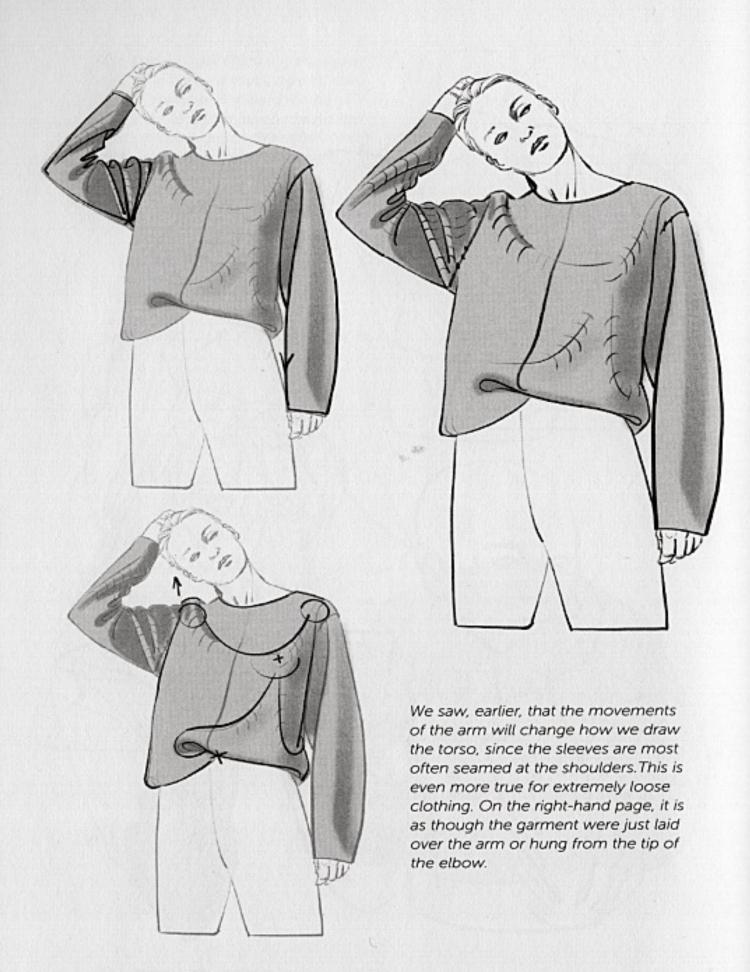








flexion - upper limb | 67





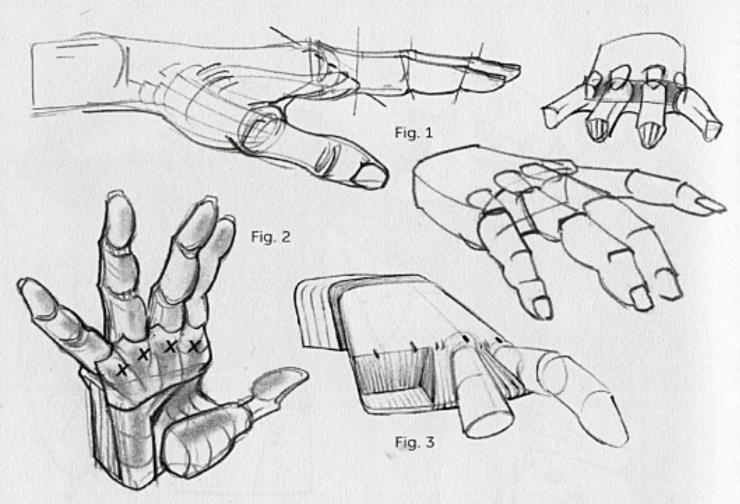
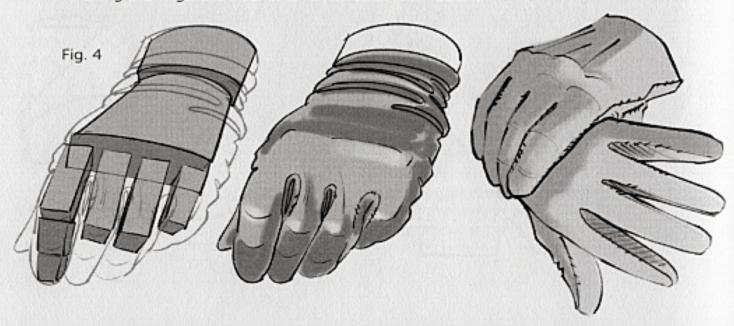
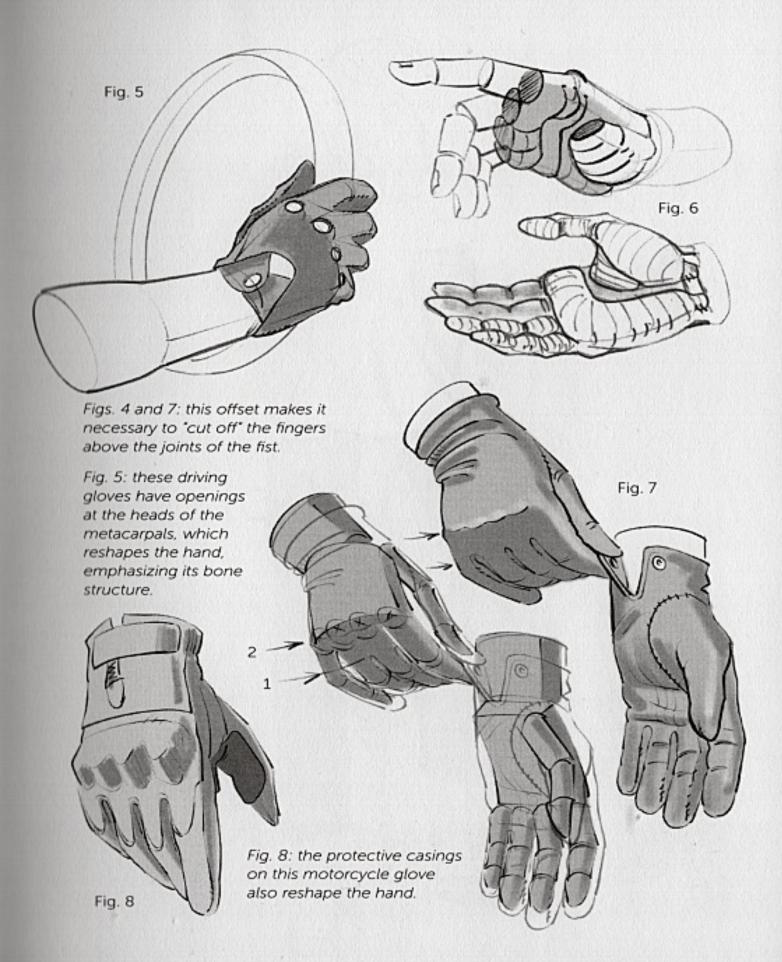


Fig. 1: the heads of the metacarpals (the fist) are protected, on the palm, by a fatty padding that creates an offset in the contours, when seen from the side. This is responsible for the folds of skin, or "palms," between the fingers.

Fig. 2: the heads of the metacarpals are indicated by crosses.

Figs. 3 and 6: these "palms" overlap the first phalanges by half their length, making the fingers look shorter when seen from above.

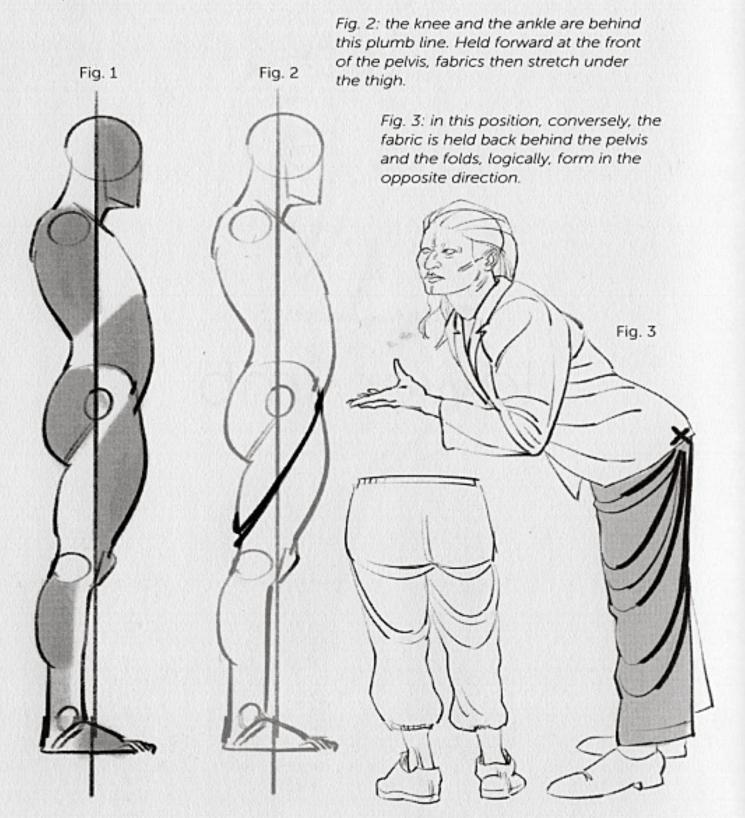


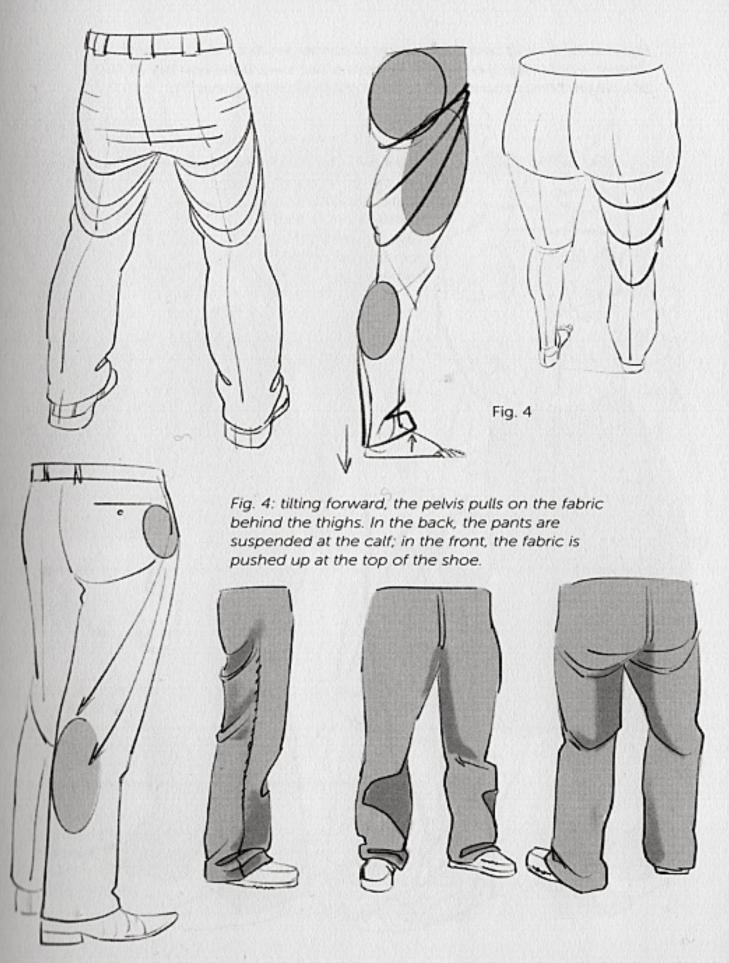




## lower limb

Fig. 1: in a standing position, with the feet together, from the side, the various segments of the body alternate leaning to the left and the right of a plumb line that runs from the center of the head to the top of the plantar arch.





Figs. 1 to 3: the calf becomes a point of convergence for the tension folds when it is bulky (fig. 1) or when the leg is offset toward the rear (fig. 2), but also when there is ligamentary laxity at the level of the knees (fig. 3). In such cases, the calf pulls on the Fig. 1 fabrics that are held in front, above, at the pelvis. Whereas below, under the knee, the tensions run in the reverse direction to join at the front of the leg. Fig. 2 Fig. 3



